

The

KINGBIRD

New York State
Ornithological
Association, Inc.
Vol. 58 No. 4
December 2008



THE KINGBIRD (ISSN 0023-1606), published quarterly (March, June, September, December), is a peer-reviewed publication of the New York State Ornithological Association, Inc., which has been organized to further the study of bird life and to disseminate knowledge thereof, to educate the public in the need for conserving natural resources, and to document the ornithology of the state and maintain the official Checklist of the Birds of New York State.

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Requests for single copies and back numbers (\$5.00 each): Tim Baird, 242 E. State St., Salamanca, NY 14779.

All amounts stated above are payable in US funds only, with checks payable to NYSOA. Add \$8 to all categories for addresses other than US.

Postmaster—send address changes to:
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The KINGBIRD

PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK STATE ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

Volume 58 No. 4

December 2008

pp. 309-404

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Editor — S. S. Mitra
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Circulation Managers — Barbara Butler, Berna Lincoln

Cover Photo — Gray Kingbird, Greece, Monroe Co., 2 Oct 2005, copyright Willie D'Anna.

REPORT OF THE NEW YORK STATE AVIAN RECORDS COMMITTEE FOR 2005

The New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC) reviewed 146 reports from 2005, involving 82 separate sightings, and an additional six reports from 2004 or earlier. Reports were received from all over the state, with 31 of the 62 counties represented. The overall acceptance rate remains high at 86%. The Committee encourages the observers of any rare bird in New York State (NYS) to submit reports, not just the initial finders. By archiving multiple reports we retain a fuller account of the sighting, and the independent viewpoints help to corroborate important details, especially highly subjective features such as size, flight style and vocalizations. Individual rather than collaborative reports are preferred. It is important not to skimp on the details under the (often mistaken) assumption that the missing information will be provided by others. The names of contributors (reports and/or photographs) are listed alongside accepted reports and in a listing at the end of this document. On behalf of the New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA), the Committee wishes to thank all of the contributors for their efforts. Where possible, the narrative will include the name(s) of the original finder(s) even if they have not submitted a report to us. Naturally, however, we would very much prefer that all finders actively contribute to the permanent record of their discovery. We also extend our appreciation to the cadre of hard-working Kingbird Regional Editors, who have taken pains to encourage the proper documentation of rare birds. Last but not least, the Committee wishes to thank Betsy Brooks (Braddock Bay Bird Observatory, Rochester, NY), Paul A. Buckley, James Dean (Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C.), Jon Dunn, Dick Forsman, Julian Hough, Jeremy J. Kirchman (New York State Museum, Albany, NY), Blake Mathys (Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ), Killian Mullarney, and Mark Robbins for their expert evaluations and other information that enhanced the review process or added substance to this Annual Report.

HOW TO SUBMIT REPORTS

Advice on how to prepare and submit a report is provided within the NYSARC section of the NYSOA web site:

<http://nybirds.org/NYSARC/NYSARChome.htm>

An on-line reporting form allows observers to compose a written report and attach up to five digital image files. A list of species requested for review by NYSARC ("The Review List") is also provided, along with illustrated copies of all previous Annual Reports. The Committee is very grateful to Carena Pooth (NYSOA Vice-President, Website Administrator and Director of the Young
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Birders Club) for updating and continuously improving the NYSARC website. In addition to the online reporting form, observers are welcome to send documentation (written and photographic) via e-mail or regular mail. All reports and other correspondence for the Committee should be sent to:

Jeanne Skelly, Secretary for NYSARC
420 Chili-Scottsville Rd., Churchville, NY 14428
nysarc3@nybirds.org

OTHER COMMITTEE NEWS

Voting on the 2005 reports was finalized at the NYSARC Annual Meeting held at the Greene County Accelerator Building in Cossack on 11 Aug 2007. The Committee would like to thank Rich Guthrie for arranging use of this excellent venue. During the day-long session, the Committee finalized the second and third rounds of voting, reviewed potential additions to the New York State Checklist and discussed other items of business. The latter included requests to re-evaluate two past decisions in light of new information. The first concerns New York's only **Azure Gallinule** (*Porphyrio flavirostris*). This unique record for North America has been dogged by questions of origin, and these concerns were deemed sufficient for another prominent checklist Committee to reverse their acceptance of the record. The second follows a request to re-evaluate a 1992 report of a **Black-backed Wagtail** (*Motacilla lugens*) in response to changes in wagtail taxonomy that were announced by the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) Checklist Committee (AOU 2005).

The Azure Gallinule (NYSARC 1986-39-A) was found dead in Fort Salonga, Suffolk Co., on 14 Dec 1986, the victim of a domestic cat (see Boyle *et al.* 1987; Spencer and Kolodnicki 1988). To date, this remains the only record for North America, but questions regarding its natural origins have persisted. The identification is not in doubt. After acceptance by NYSARC (NYSARC 1988), the ABA Checklist Committee (ABA-CLC, Gill 1990) and the AOU Checklist Committee (AOU-CLC, AOU 1991), a local ornithologist approached members of the ABA-CLC with information to suggest the bird had escaped from a private bird collection shortly before its discovery. This communication prompted the ABA-CLC to reconsider the record and eventually reverse their previous acceptance, thus removing the species from the ABA Checklist (Dunn 1999). No change has been made by the AOU-CLC (see Pranty 2007). Upon request, the ABA-CLC kindly provided NYSARC with access to the written arguments that led them to this decision, including copies of letters from the aforementioned ornithologist that were sent to J. Van Remsen, Jr. and to Mark Robbins stating that an unnamed aviculturist claimed to have owned and then lost the gallinule in question. During the original first and second round deliberations, the NYSARC members considered the possibility of an escape or human-assisted transport but were unable to find any evidence to support either scenario. As a family, the gallinules have a well-documented propensity for

long-range vagrancy (Remsen and Parker 1990), and this perception contributed in large measure to the original acceptance of the record (NYSARC 1988). In its more recent discussions, the Committee was in contact with the above mentioned ornithologist and made a number of additional inquiries, but was unable to discover the whereabouts or identity of the Long Island aviculturist or uncover any facts that could support the claim of ownership. Due to the lack of any verifiable new information pertinent to this question, the Committee ruled that no action would be taken and that the initial acceptance should stand.

The wagtail report concerns a calling bird that flew over four experienced observers on 21 Dec 1992 as they stood on the shore of Deadhorse Bay, Brooklyn, Kings Co., submitted as a Black-backed Wagtail, *Motacilla lugens* (NYSARC 1992-26-A/B). The bird was seen only in flight, and therefore the identification relied heavily on recollections of its call and limited views by the lead observer. Two reports were submitted outlining the circumstances of the sighting, complete with renditions of the call note and an authoritative analysis of the likely identification. Although some members of the Committee agreed that this may indeed have been a wagtail, the record was not accepted, due in large part to the brevity of the sighting and an inability to definitively determine the species involved. The reasoning behind this decision was not transmitted in the published Committee Annual Report (NYSARC 1995). At the time, the AOU treated Black-backed Wagtail and the very similar White Wagtail (*M. alba*) as two separate species, both of which have occurred in North America (AOU 1982) and could thus present an additional hurdle to acceptance of the record. In 2005, the Black-backed versus White Wagtail question was rendered less critical when the AOU decided to re-lump the two into one species (AOU 2005). With this in mind, the current Committee revisited the original deliberations to determine whether the change in taxonomic status would provide sufficient grounds for a re-evaluation of the record that could potentially arrive at a different outcome. After examining the original reports and the comments made by the Committee at that time, the current members agreed that even without the complication of two black-and-white wagtail species, the limited details provided in the two reports were not likely to be sufficient for acceptance as a first state record. Consequently, the Committee agreed to take no further action.

Members of the public may request a copy of any report submitted to NYSARC regardless of whether it was accepted or not. Individuals may also ask the Committee to revisit a past decision if there is relevant information that was not available to the Committee at the time. As per NYSOA guidelines, requests of either kind must be made in writing, must state the reason for the request, and should be directed to the Secretary at the address given above.

HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights of the 2005 Annual Report include the first state record of **Common Ringed Plover** (*Charadrius hiaticula*), an unprecedented influx of **Cave Swallows** (*Petrochelidon fulva*), and a considerably smaller, but equally

noteworthy, influx of **Swainson's Warblers** (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*). A trio of **Whooping Cranes** (*Grus americana*) in April and a single bird in August were a thrilling new sight for New York but are known to hail from an on-going reintroduction experiment. Vagrant flycatchers were headlined by a **Gray Kingbird** (*Tyrannus dominicensis*), the first in thirteen years.

2005 Reports Accepted

Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*)

2005-2-A/D One, Hempstead Town Park, Lido Beach, **Nassau**, 2-16 Jan (Shaibal S. Mitra, Patricia Lindsay, Angus Wilson, Dick Gershon, Nikolas Haass, ph S. Mitra, A. Wilson, Angel Souto).

2005-9-A One, Further Lane, East Hampton, **Suffolk**, 31 Dec (Shaibal S. Mitra, ph S. Mitra).

2005-11-A Two, Barker Centennial Park, Somerset, **Niagara**, 26 Mar (William W. Watson).

2005-12-A/B One to seven, Rte 18, Town of Yates, **Orleans**, 26 Mar (William W. Watson, Willie D'Anna, ph Dean DiTommaso).

2005-30-A One, Long Point State Park, Cayuga Lake, **Cayuga**, 5 Mar (Curtis Marantz).

2005-54-A One, Bacon Hill, Northumberland, **Saratoga**, 27 Oct (Barbara Putnam, ph B. Putnam).

2005-57-A/B Three, Ring-necked Marsh, Iroquois NWR, **Orleans**, 29 Oct - 12 Nov (William W. Watson, Michael Morgante).

2005-73-A One, Countryside Sand & Gravel Ponds, Dayton, **Cattaraugus**, 30 Oct (Michael Morgante).

Since Cackling Goose was split from Canada Goose (*B. canadensis*) in 2004, birders in NY have looked for and found the nominate form of this newly recognized species with some consistency. Whether this reflects a genuine increase in occurrence or better detection makes for an interesting discussion. All of the 2005 reports pertain to the nominate subspecies *B. h. hutchinsii*, commonly known as "Richardson's" Canada Goose prior to the split. This population nests in the central Canadian Arctic and winters in the central United States and northern Mexico. As with previous years, the majority of reports came from western NY, with smaller numbers from Long Island and elsewhere. In general, only passage migrants are found upstate, with wintering individuals more likely on Long Island. Flocks containing multiple individuals are more likely in Region 1, as shown by the 2005 records of seven birds in Orleans Co., three in Genesee Co., and two in Niagara Co. Cattaraugus had its first county record, though it is conceivable that this form was simply overlooked in the past. Due to the numerous accepted reports of this species, NYSARC removed Cackling Goose from the Review List, though regional documentation is still encouraged. Reports of other less likely races of Cackling Goose, such as the truly diminutive *B. h. minima*, should be thoroughly documented and submitted to NYSARC.

Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*)

2005-62-A/D One, Irondequoit Bay Outlet, **Monroe**, 14-17 Nov (William W. Watson, Dominic Sherony, Gerald S. Lazarczyk, Robert G. Spahn, ph D. Sherony: see p. 357, R. Spahn).

This female Common Eider was seen for at least a week, often at exceptionally close range, and provided an unexpected opportunity for non-coastal birders to study a species that is rare away from saltwater. Based on the excellent photographs accompanying two of the reports, the Committee agreed that this was not *S. m. dresseri*, the subspecies that winters in large numbers along the coast of eastern Long Island. Although some members felt that it most closely resembled the Pacific subspecies, *S. m. v-nigra*, it was not clear that the northern subspecies *S. m. borealis*, which has been collected in NY and regularly ranges south to Massachusetts, could be definitively ruled out (see Spahn 1998). Field identification of Common Eider subspecies is an area of active study, with the differences in female and immature plumages being the least well understood (Knapton 1997).

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)

2005-60-A One, Cumberland Head, Plattsburg, **Clinton**, 2 Nov (William E. Krueger).

Once a great rarity in NYS, Western Grebe has become a more frequent visitor in the past decade, with reports being about equally divided between spring and fall. The description of the pattern of white, black and gray on the face/neck/back, combined with the long, dull yellow bill, was adequate to eliminate Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*) and Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*) that were also present on Lake Champlain. The description of the pattern of black on the face and bill color, plus lack of white on the sides, argued against the less likely Clark's Grebe or a hybrid.

Audubon's Shearwater (*Puffinus lherminieri*)

2005-45-A Three individuals, seen on a pelagic out of Belmar, NJ to waters southeast of New York Harbor, 20 Aug (Paul A. Guris).

Audubon's Shearwater is regularly found on pelagic trips to Hudson Canyon during the mid- to late-summer, and NYSARC has accepted five September sightings since 1978, with a number of credible reports not submitted for review. These three individuals were found during an organized pelagic trip led by Paul Guris and were well described. The first two were found approximately 43 miles east of Belmar, NJ (39° 53' 48" N, 73° 09' 03" W) and the third was 76 miles east of Belmar (39° 39' 34" N, 72° 30' 14" W), in both cases within the NYS pelagic boundaries. The size comparison with Cory's Shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*) and the detailed plumage description eliminated Manx Shearwater (*P. puffinus*), which has been noted in NY in almost every month of the year.

American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*)

2005-23-A/B One, main pool, Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, **Seneca**,

20 May - 2 Jul (William W. Watson, Mark Chao).

2005-39-A One, near exit 19 on the NYS Thruway, Kingston, **Ulster**, 28 Jun (Michael Shanley).

2005-79-A One, White Lake, **Oneida**, 14 Aug (Andrew VanNorstrand).

A signature species of the Great Plains, American White Pelicans have become quite regular in upstate NY, with the wetlands at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge (MNWR) being a favored location in spring and to a lesser extent in summer. The timing of the Montezuma and Kingston sightings maintains this trend. The August bird from the Adirondacks (northeastern Oneida Co.) was more unusual.

Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*)

2005-55-A One male, Bayport, **Suffolk**, 6 Nov (Gail M. Black).

Like many reports of vagrant frigatebirds in the northeast, this record lacked the detail to identify the species with absolute certainty. After some debate, the Committee chose to accept it as a Magnificent Frigatebird because the description was fully consistent with this species, and the individual occurred in the context of a massive displacement of birds by Hurricane Wilma, which crossed southern Florida from the Gulf of Mexico on 24 Oct and moved rapidly northeast on a vector roughly parallel to the Atlantic seaboard. Multiple Magnificent Frigatebirds are known to have been propelled north, with more than 70 on Bermuda and 7-8 reaching Nova Scotia and St. Pierre. One apparently made it as far as the British Isles on 7 Nov. Numerous frigatebird sightings between NY and Georgia in the first week of November are likely to be displaced individuals returning south (Dinsmore and Farnsworth 2006, McLaren and Mills 2006). Even though the circumstances strongly favor a Magnificent Frigatebird originating in the Gulf of Mexico or Caribbean, the Committee notes that other species of this genus have occurred as vagrants in North America, and strongly urges observers to document any frigatebird seen in NY in as much detail as possible. This is underscored by a female Lesser Frigatebird (*F. ariel*) photographed on 11 Sep 2005 by hawkwatchers in Brownstown, Michigan, at the western end of Lake Erie (Brennan and Schultz 2006).

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*)

2005-21-A One subadult, north marsh, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, **Queens**, 14 May (Angus Wilson).

This ibis was viewed briefly from the West Pond walking trail before it disappeared into a tidal creek. The red facial skin and eye were indicative of White-faced rather than Glossy Ibis (*P. falcinellus*). The lack of white feathering around the eye and gape and the adult-like maroon color and iridescence of the plumage suggest an older subadult rather than a first-summer bird. The report raises the valid question of hybridization, but there is nothing in the description that would be inconsistent for a subadult White-faced Ibis. Although the nesting range of this species is concentrated in the marshlands of the Great Basin, with most birds wintering on the central Gulf Coast into Mexico, it is interesting to

note that the majority of NYS records have occurred on Long Island rather than the interior or western part of the state, the exceptions being two historical specimens (1844 and 1908) from Grand Island, Erie Co., and a well-documented bird from Montezuma NWR, Seneca Co., in 2003 (NYSARC 2003-37-A/T).

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*)

2005-3-A/C One, Route 89, Varick, **Seneca**, 27 Feb (Michael Harvey, Jay McGowan, Matthew Medler, ph M. Harvey, J. McGowan, Daniel Lebbin).

This adult gray-morph Gyr Falcon was documented with a nice set of reports and excellent photographs. The observers rightly considered the possibility of an escaped falconry bird and carefully looked for signs of captivity but found none. Harvey's report considered not only other North American raptors but also discussed European species and the possibility of a hybrid. Falconers in North America do keep a variety of European species, including Lanner Falcon (*F. biarmicus*) and the very Gyr Falcon-like Saker Falcon (*F. cherrug*), as well as hybrid falcons, so this cautious approach is well justified. Although some hybrid combinations may be very difficult to separate from a pure Gyr Falcon, it was felt that there was nothing in the description that was incompatible with the identification of Gyr Falcon, an assertion that was supported by the photographs.

Wilson's Plover (*Charadrius wilsonia*)

2005-19-A/B One, Sagaponack Pond, Bridgehampton, **Suffolk**, 6-8 May (Shaibal S. Mitra, Angus Wilson).

This male Wilson's Plover was found by Hugh McGuinness on 6 May and seen again by a number of observers on the following two days and again by McGuinness on 9 May. Interestingly, a female Wilson's Plover was found just south of the NY/NJ border at Sandy Hook on 10 May, remaining until the 19th. At times the plover was difficult to locate, most likely when it moved to the northern shore of the large cove at the southern end of the Pond. The combination of the large black bill, white collar, and the tall pinkish legs eliminated any other species. The rusty tones on the rear crown and cheeks indicated breeding plumage. The location on the south shore of Long Island and the late spring date are typical for reports of Wilson's Plover in NYS, and perhaps reflect pioneering individuals venturing into suitable habitat north of the core breeding range.

Common Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*)

2005-70-A One adult, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, **Queens**, 13 Sep (Martin Lofgren, ph M. Lofgren: see p. 356).

Whilst photographing a confiding Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*) and other shorebirds on the partly-drained East Pond at Jamaica Bay WR, Martin Lofgren took several photographs of a worn *Charadrius* plover, presuming that this was the expected Semipalmated Plover (*C. semipalmatus*). Only later, as he reviewed his images more carefully, did Lofgren realize that this was in fact more likely a Common Ringed Plover, a familiar species from his native Sweden. In submitting the extant photographs to

NYSARC for review, Lofgren readily acknowledged that the potentially diagnostic call was not knowingly heard nor was the presence or absence of partial webbing on the feet looked for. Understandably, other birders present on the East Pond, including members of the Committee, were not alerted to the bird's presence.

During its extensive deliberations, the Committee examined numerous photographs of both Common Ringed and Semipalmated Plovers, looked at similar worn adults in the field, and consulted with several shorebird experts in Europe and North America. There was general agreement that the structure of the bill, positioning of dark feathering above the gape, extent of the black breast band, absence of a yellowish orbital ring and other features were fully consistent with Common Ringed Plover and inconsistent with Semipalmated Plover. This represents the first record for NYS and one of only a handful for North America south of the high arctic breeding sites in the Nunavut Province of Canada (1,000 pairs), Greenland (30-60,000 pairs) and northwestern Alaska (several hundred pairs), all of which migrate to Europe, Africa and Asia for the remainder of the year. South of the arctic, there are accepted records from Newfoundland (24-28 Aug 1980, 14-16 Aug 2001, 20 Aug - 17 Sept 2006), Nova Scotia (7 Oct 1989), Quebec (27-28 Jul 1989, 7 Jul 2000), Prince Edward Island (2 Oct 1989), Maine (26 Aug - 5 Sep 2003), Massachusetts (5 Sep 1990), and Rhode Island (15-22 Sep 1991) (Mills *et al.* 1990, Auchu 2000, Ellison and Martin 2004, Clarke and Brown 2007). There are also records from the Caribbean, including Barbados and Trinidad (Raffaele *et al.* 1998; Kenefick *et al.* 2007). It is conceivable that Common Ringed Plovers occur in the northeast on a more frequent basis but are missed because of their considerable similarity to Semipalmated Plover, especially in juvenile plumage. Careful scrutiny of "ringed plovers" by well-prepared observers may ultimately lead to more sightings, which of course will need to be very extensively documented with written descriptions and preferably accompanied by photographs.

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*)

2005-20-A/C One, Little Reed Pond, Montauk, **Suffolk**, 6-8 May (Shaibal S. Mitra, Angus Wilson, Rex Stanford, ph A. Wilson, R. Stanford).

2005-38-A/B Three, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, **Kings/Queens**, 19 May (Shaibal S. Mitra, Douglas Gochfeld).

The occurrence of Black-necked Stilt on Long Island has increased slightly in recent years. The Committee received three reports and two photographs of a Black-necked Stilt discovered on 1 May by Vicki Bustamante on Little Reed Pond in Montauk, this elegant shorebird remaining until 10 May. On 19 May, three birds were found together on the West Pond at Jamaica Bay Refuge but were gone the next day.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*)

2005-56-A/B One, Sir Adam Beck Power Station, Niagara River, **Niagara**, 12 Nov (William W. Watson, Willie D'Anna).

The first California Gull found on the Niagara River occurred in 1992, and, amazingly, the species has been recorded there every year since. Most records are from the power plants on the lower river, where the 2005 bird was observed. There are also nearly annual reports from above Niagara Falls, where the river is much wider; however, most of those are on the Canadian side of the river and therefore are generally not submitted to NYSARC. This year's bird is believed to be the same individual that had been present for at least three consecutive prior years, based on its habit of perching at the base of the power dam on the NY side and the barely noticeable red spot on its lower mandible.

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*)

2005-13-A One first winter, Lake Edward on Perinton Parkway, Perinton, **Monroe**, 7 Dec (Dominic Sherony, ph D. Sherony: see p. 356).

Documentation of Thayer's Gull is problematic because of difficulties in separating first cycle plumages from Kumlien's Iceland Gull (*L. glaucoides kumlieni*) and more advanced plumages from American Herring Gull (*L. argentatus smithsonianus*) (Olsen and Larsson 2004, Howell and Dunn 2007). There are also uncertainties about the taxonomic status, with reason to think that Kumlien's might reflect a stable hybrid population formed by post-glacial contact between Thayer's and nominate Iceland Gulls (*L. g. glaucoides*). Because of these concerns, the Committee requires identifiable photographs or meticulous descriptions for acceptance of Thayer's reports. The Perinton bird was documented by two photographs and the bird was observed on two different days. Comparison photographs of an additional first cycle bird somewhat intermediate between Thayer and Kumlien's were also provided. The Committee considered the first individual characteristic of a Thayer's Gull.

Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*)

2005-46-A Two, Breezy Point, **Queens**, 31 Aug (Shane Blodgett).

Shane Blodgett found these two Sandwich Terns roosting among several thousand Common Terns (*S. hirundo*) and an estimated 1,000 Black Skimmers (*Rynchops niger*) on the open beach and dunes near Breezy Point. One of the two birds had plumage characteristics of a juvenile and repeatedly tried to beg from the other bird. Sandwich Tern remains a rare species in NYS and is easily confused with other *Sterna* terns, especially in late summer and fall when local nesting species transition into basic plumage. The report described both birds in excellent detail, leaving no doubt regarding their identity. The late summer date and proximity to a barrier beach inlet is fairly typical for Sandwich Tern records on Long Island.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)

2005-40-A/C One first summer, Moriches Inlet, Cupsogue County Park, Suffolk, 3-12 Jul (Shaibal S. Mitra, Sean Sime, Shane Blodgett, ph Rob Jett).

This Arctic Tern was found on 3 Jul by Shai Mitra as he and others sorted through a large group of Common (*S. hirundo*), Least (*Sternula antillarum*), and Black (*Chlidonias niger*) Terns near Moriches Inlet on the south shore of Long Island. The close proximity of this bird to Common Terns of various ages allowed for the detailed comparisons necessary to make this difficult identification. Sean Sime, Shane Blodgett, and Rob Jett found a similarly plumaged Arctic Tern at this same location on 12 Jul and also provided excellent written descriptions. Recent reports from Long Island suggest that individual Arctic Terns appear for only brief periods, often just one day, before moving on, and thus these two sets of reports might actually involve different individuals.

Thick-billed Murre (*Uria lomvia*)

2005-7-A Two, Shinnecock Inlet, Suffolk, 29 Jan (Rex and Birgit Stanford, ph R. Stanford).

2005-71-A One, Montauk Point State Park, Suffolk, 27 Dec (Seth Ausubel).

Rex and Birgit Stanford provided an excellent written description and accompanying photographs that clearly document an adult Thick-billed Murre and a first-winter bird at Shinnecock Inlet. After reviewing their photos, they concluded that there might have been two different adults present, totaling three birds, but in the opinion of the Committee, the photo documentation did not support the presence of a second adult. The December murre was originally found on 17 Dec by Tom Burke and the Point South party whilst participating on the Montauk Christmas Bird Count.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)

2005-50-A/C One, Church Road, Hamlin, Monroe, 1-17 June (Robert G. Spahn, Jeanne Skelly, Dominic Sherony, ph R. Spahn).

This Eurasian Collared-Dove was discovered by David Tetlow not far from the location where the first accepted record for the State occurred in 2002 (NYSARC 2002-26-A/B). Although the Committee is aware of the continuous spread of Eurasian Collared-Doves across the southern United States and northeastwards, there are still only three previously accepted records for NY. Considering the location, it is possible that this individual is the same as the 2002 sighting. Analysts have commented on the striking, but as yet unexplained, failure of Eurasian Collared-Dove to expand into the northeast during a time when the species has already reached the prairie states of western Canada. Since this species is occasionally kept in captivity—a known source of some extralimital records—observers are strongly encouraged to look for bands or other signs of recent captive origin. Observers are also reminded to carefully rule out the frequently released form of Ringed Turtle-Dove (*S. risoria*).

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*)

2005-41-A One, Buffalo Street, Silver Creek, **Chautauqua**, 8 May (Marilyn Pecoraro-O'Connell).

This dove was noted at a ground feeder as the observer was getting ready for work. Fortunately, she opted to pause and study the bird carefully because it disappeared as soon as she went to retrieve a camera. Even in the absence of photographic documentation, this complete description was deemed acceptable.

Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*)

2005-6-A/D One, Gosier Road, Cape Vincent, **Jefferson**, 23 Feb - 24 Mar (Shaibal S. Mitra, Gerry Smith, Rex & Birgit Stanford, Curtis Marantz, ph S. Mitra, R. Stanford; see p. 357, C. Marantz).

2005-28-A One, found injured on Route 3 in Natural Bridge, **Jefferson**, end of Feb (Gerry Smith).

The Cape Vincent Great Gray was found by Gerry Smith on 23 Feb and was documented by three written reports, several photographs and a newspaper article. During its long stay, this wonderfully cooperative owl was watched and photographed by many people and was last noted by Smith on 17 May. The second record, detailed in a newspaper article written by H. Michael Jalili and submitted to the archive by Gerry Smith, describes a Great Gray Owl that was injured after colliding with a car on Route 3 in Natural Bridge in late February. The owl was taken to a rehabilitator and released on 1 Mar in Dexter, Jefferson Co. NYS marked the southern boundary of a substantial incursion during the winter of 2004/2005. Approximately 600 were reported in Quebec by February, but relatively few were recorded south of the St. Lawrence River (Bannon *et al.* 2005). Likewise, several hundred were located in southern Ontario, but these again found sufficient food so that only a minority had to travel south of Lake Ontario (Currie 2005).

Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus*)

2005-53-A One, Lake Road, Wilson, **Niagara**, 23, 28, 31 Jan & 10 Mar (Willie D'Anna, ph W. D'Anna).

Marg Partridge found this Boreal Owl on private property, and it was relocated on several more occasions. Digital photographs were obtained using binoculars and leave no doubt about the identification. The winter of 2004/05 will be remembered for its Boreal Owls, of which at least two found in 2004 (2004-61-A/B and 2004-71-A/E) continued into 2005. Lake Road is only a few miles from Wilson-Tuscarora State Park, where a Boreal Owl was found on 18 Dec 2004 (NYSARC 2004-83-A).

Chuck-will's-widow (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*)

2005-26-A/E One, Wheeler & West Roads, West Monroe, **Oswego**, 21 & 29 May (Kevin McGann, Bill Purcell, Charles C. Spagnoli, Jeanne Skelly, Dominic Sherony).

A single Chuck-will's-widow was heard singing over a period of nine days near the Three Mile Bay WMA, a mostly wet, wooded swamp with drier upland

areas favored by this bird. The song descriptions were detailed and convinced the Committee of the identification. Chuck-will's-widow had been recorded in the same general location previously.

Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*)

2005-37-A/B One, Jones Beach West End, **Nassau**, 23 June (Shaibal S. Mitra, Seymour Schiff, ph S. Mitra).

This western tyrant flycatcher was discovered by Max and Nellie Larson near the Coast Guard Station and relocated by several additional observers as it moved east along the barrier beach before reappearing near the original spot. Excellent written details and accompanying photographs convincingly documented this one-day visitor. The mid-summer date is unprecedented, as previous NYS records have occurred in the fall (Sept-Oct) or winter (Dec-Feb), and hints that western vagrants occur more frequently during this period than is generally assumed.

Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*)

2005-49-A/F One, Manitou Road at Salmon Creek, Greece, **Monroe**, 1-4 Oct (Jeanne Skelly, Dominic Sherony, William W. Watson, Willie D'Anna, Gerry S. Lazarczyk, Robert G. Spahn, ph J. Skelly, D. Sherony, W. D'Anna, R. Spahn).

This cooperative Gray Kingbird was discovered by David Tetlow along Salmon Creek and was watched and photographed over its four day stay by many additional observers. This represents the tenth record for NYS and the first since 1992. Gray Kingbird remains a rare visitor to the northeast as a whole, and the only other reports for fall 2005 were from New Jersey on 19 Oct and another in Maryland on the same day.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*)

2005-32-A/C One, Mt. Loretto Unique Area, Staten Island, **Richmond**, 5 Jun (Seth Wollney, Angus Wilson, Steve Nanz, ph A. Wilson, S. Nanz, sketch S. Wollney).

Rich McGovern found this Scissor-tailed Flycatcher hawking insects over a small pond on 5 Jun but, unfortunately, it had gone by the following day. This bird represents at least the third record for Richmond Co. and was seen by many observers during its brief stay, three of whom provided excellent details and photographs. The early summer date is fairly typical for this southern species.

Purple Martin (*Progne subis*)

2005-76-A One adult female, Golden Hill State Park, Somerset, **Niagara**, 5 Nov (Michael Morgante).

Ordinarily rare after September, the previous late record for Purple Martin was 28 Oct, but there is a single record for February (Crowell 1998). This female martin was well seen from Golden Hill State Park, found over Lake Ontario while observers were watching the incursion of Cave Swallows (*Petrochelidon fulva*) occurring at that time. Other large dark swallows were considered but eliminated as possible alternatives.

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)

2005-52-A/C, Three, under Lake Ontario Parkway bridge at Salmon Creek, Greece, **Monroe**, 3-17 Nov (Robert G. Spahn, Gerald S. Lazarczyk, Dominic Sherony, ph R. Spahn).

2005-61-A Four, Derby Hill Bird Observatory, Mexico, **Oswego**, 6 Nov (Bill Purcell).

2005-64-A Three, Fairhaven State Park, **Cayuga**, 16 Nov (Gregg Dashnau, ph G. Dashnau: see p. 356).

2005-75-A Forty-two, Golden Hill State Park, Somerset, **Niagara**, 5 Nov (Michael Morgante).

The late fall of 2005 witnessed a spectacular incursion of Cave Swallows into the northeast, shattering records at many locations. The greatest numbers were recorded on the southern shore of Lake Ontario, with the majority of birds flying west. We received nine reports detailing some 52 birds. In reality there were a great many more than this, perhaps something in the order of a thousand. By far the largest counts were made at Hamlin Beach State Park (Monroe Co.), where the major passage occurred from 3 Nov through to 6 Nov. Strong winds from the southwest were met by an approaching low-pressure system, and a trickle of birds grew into a deluge on 6 Nov when the front passed through. During that one day, observers counted a remarkable 579 Cave Swallows, giving a cumulative total of 761 for the four-day period! A few Cave Swallows lingered as late as 17 Nov, when birds were found roosting under a bridge and were photographed. A specimen was also found at this location on 17 Nov and deposited in the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology collection. It is speculated that subsequent northwesterly winds pushed the surviving birds east and south towards the coast, with multiple sightings in the latter half of November from Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, southern New Jersey, coastal Virginia and North Carolina. For fuller accounts of this spectacular incursion see Spahn and Tetlow (2006) and Sullivan *et al.* (2006).

Clearly this was an unprecedented event and, in reviewing the reports submitted, the Committee concentrated on two concerns: one, that not all of the individuals that were counted were seen well enough to be rigorously identified; and two, that individuals may have been counted two or more times, either as they passed observers spread along the lake front or by circling around one particular area. The latter was of greatest concern in discussion of the extraordinary daily counts from Hamlin Beach, given that comparable numbers were not seen to the west or east. Commentary by members intimately familiar with the circumstances did much to clarify these issues. On the days when large numbers of Cave Swallows were seen, they were typically observed in small groups flying quickly by, and thus it was impossible for an observer to completely study every individual. Apparent size, shape, and flight-style were used to quickly rule out most other swallow species. When it was possible, observers noted plumage characters such as the buffy throat and lack of a very pale forehead patch to rule out Cliff Swallow (*P. pyrrhonota*). Very few other lingering swallow species were found along Lake Ontario during this November

event and, in fact, no Cliff Swallows were reported. Therefore, the Committee felt reasonably assured that almost all of the birds reported as Cave Swallows were correctly identified.

The second concern—double-counting—was considered more likely if these birds had been actively foraging rather than strictly flying west. For example, birds could have been foraging into the wind along the lake edge, where they were counted, and then might have circled back inland with the wind, only to then return to the lake to forage once more. Observers did make an effort to look inland as well as along the lake and very few birds were noted to be flying east. Given these qualifiers, the Committee voted to accept the total number of birds as reported. Cave Swallows have undergone a remarkable change in their frequency of occurrence since the first fall record (and second ever) in November 1998 (1998-59-A). Almost every year the number of sightings has crept upward, predominantly along Lakes Ontario and Erie and, subsequently, Long Island's south shore. The long-term significance for this species and the underlying causes are essentially unknown.

Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*)

2005-8-A/B One, Ellis Hollow, Dryden, **Tompkins**, 6 Mar (Jay McGowan, Curtis Marantz, ph J. & Kevin McGowan).

Brian Sullivan found this Mountain Bluebird on 6 Mar, and it was subsequently seen by many birders. Details of plumage suggest that this was probably a first-year male based on the extent of blue, but the possibility that it was an adult female cannot be entirely ruled out.

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*)

2005-31-A One, Jones Beach West End, **Nassau**, 29 May (John Heidecker, ph J. Heidecker).

2005-51-A One adult, Wilson, **Niagara**, 12-14 Apr (Willie D'Anna, ph W. D'Anna).

2005-74-A One adult, Kingston, **Ulster**, 12 Nov (Mark Dedea, sketches M. Dedea).

Previous NYS records for Townsend's Solitaire have come from the eastern part of the state. Thus, to have three separate sightings spread across the state over a one year period is notable. The reports of the sightings from Jones Beach and Wilson were accompanied by excellent photographs. The third report from Kingston included a thorough description and excellent sketches. David Gardner discovered the solitaire at Jones Beach.

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*)

2005-4-A/B One adult male, home of Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Talentino, Cortland, **Cortland**, 7-8 Jan (Kevin McGann, Chris Tessaglia-Hymes, ph K. McGann, C. & Diane Tessaglia-Hymes: see p. 356).

2005-68-A/B One male, Webster Park, Webster, **Monroe**, 1 Dec - Mar 2006 (Jeanne Skelly, Dominic Sherony, ph D. Sherony).

Varied Thrush has been reported with less frequency in the state in recent times

compared to the 1980s, so it was encouraging that we received two reports for 2005. Both of these male Varied Thrushes were photographed, and the observers provided excellent descriptions of these very distinctive birds. The Webster Park thrush, found by Mike Davids and David Tetlow, remained for most of the winter and was seen by many observers, although it could be difficult to locate at times.

Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*)

2005-81-A/B One, Webster Park, **Monroe**, 5-23 Dec (Steven Daniels, Robert G. Spahn).

This Veery was chanced upon in thick brush on 4 Dec by Andy Guthrie whilst searching for the Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*) (2005-68-A/B) discovered a few days earlier. This record represents one of few documented winter records of Veery in North America, the vast majority wintering in central and southeastern Brazil (Remsen 2001). Meticulous documentation is obviously necessary for such extraordinary records, and the details associated with these observations were of a very high quality, including notation of vocalizations and flank color, in addition to the distinctive rusty tones to the upperparts.

Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Dendroica nigrescens*)

2005-63-A/C One, Forest Park, **Queens**, 13-19 Nov (Seth Ausubel, Arie Gilbert, Curtis Marantz).

This Black-throated Gray Warbler was found by Seth Ausubel on 13 Nov and represents the 14th record for NYS. The warbler, considered an adult female or hatching-year male, was seen by many birders until the last reported sighting on 19 Nov.

Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*)

2005-58-A/B One, private residence, Jamesville, Dewitt, **Onondaga**, 14 Nov (Brenda Best, Dorothy Crumb).

This Yellow-throated Warbler visited the yard of Nancy Strait. The Committee agreed that the two observers gave an excellent and complete description of this distinctive species. The behavior of this individual, picking insects or spiders from a screen porch, is not atypical, and the late date of observation is consistent with previous records.

Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*)

2005-14-A/G One, Forest Park, **Queens**, 12-17 Apr (Douglas J. Futuyma, Seymour Schiff, Michael Higgiston, Shaibal S. Mitra, Lloyd Spitalnik, Angus Wilson, Jean Loscalzo, ph L. Spitalnik, A. Wilson, Ed Lam).

2005-18-A One, Hempstead Lake State Park, **Nassau**, 1 May (Shaibal S. Mitra).

2005-33-A One, Great Kills Park, Staten Island, **Richmond**, 27 May (David W. Eib).

These three reports of Swainson's Warbler were part of an extraordinary influx of southeastern landbirds to coastal NY during the spring of 2005 (Mitra and Lindsay 2005; Veit *et al.* 2005). The very confiding Forest Park bird was amply

documented by seven reports, nine photographs, and excellent descriptions. A full account of this record was published by the finder Jean Loscalzo (see Loscalzo 2005). The second bird was found by Matt Bayer and Al Wollin at Hempstead Lake State Park and resighted by a number of birders. The final record from Staten Island was of a bird seen briefly but adequately described by David Eib. These constitute the 12th-14th records for NYS. Additional reports came from Central Park (details not yet submitted) and from eastern Long Island (see 2005-25-A below). All previous accepted records have occurred within a relatively narrow window of time (29 Apr to 20 May), with hints of similar influxes in 1973 (two records) and 1975 (two records).

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*)

2005-43-A One, Town of Champlain, Clinton, 2 July (William E. Krueger).

This species is most commonly found away from the coast during spring and fall migration, and thus a July record from the shores of Lake Champlain in Clinton Co. is quite unexpected. The description of the plumage and song eliminated the two most likely contenders, Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed (*A. caudacutus*) and LeConte's (*A. leconteii*) Sparrows. In 2002, another Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow was reported on 30 Jul from near this same location (NYSARC 2002-23-A/B), raising the exciting possibility that the species might be extending its breeding range into this corner of the state, and further scrutiny of suitable habitat there during late June and July might be rewarding.

Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco (*Junco hyemalis oregonus* or *J. h. montanus* or *J. h. shufeldti*)

2005-35-A One, Lake Road, Wilson, Niagara, 31 Jan, 6 & 13 Feb (Willie D'Anna, ph W. D'Anna).

This "Oregon" Junco was digiscoped and a thorough and lengthy description was provided. The discussion isolated the race to three of five possible subspecies in the "Oregon" group of Dark-eyed Juncos. Pink-sided Junco (*H. h. mearnsi*) was ruled out by virtue of the dark contrasting hood present on this bird. Based on the photographs, there does not appear to be any issues concerning a possible hybrid.

Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*)

2005-1-A/D One, Baldwin Harbor Town Park, Baldwin, Nassau, 2-16 Jan (Shaibal S. Mitra, Patricia Lindsay, Arie Gilbert, Angus Wilson, Nikolas Haass, ph S. Mitra, A. Wilson, sketch N. Haass).

2005-78-A One, Derby Hill Bird Observatory, Mexico, Oswego, 11 May (Gerard Phillips, ph G. Phillips).

Both reports provided thorough documentation. The immature on Long Island was discovered on 2 Jan by Shai Mitra and Patricia Lindsay during the Southern Nassau Christmas Bird Count and was viewed by many observers during the following two weeks. In addition to photographs the sparrow was portrayed with an excellent field sketch by Nikolas Haass. It associated with a flock of White-throated Sparrows that also included single nominate (*Z. leucophrys leucophrys*)

and Gambell's (*Z. l. gambelii*) White-crowned Sparrows. The second report, documenting a bird at Derby Hill, was also accompanied by clear photographs of an adult in alternate plumage. The winter date of the Long Island bird and the spring date of the Lake Ontario bird are consistent with previous records from these general areas.

Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*)

2005-17-A One, Flats Road, Athens, **Greene**, 8 May (Jeremy Taylor).

Jeremy Taylor identified this Blue Grosbeak, which was first observed by his parents at their feeder in Athens the previous day. Although his report was not terribly detailed, the description of a large blue songbird with a heavy bill and chestnut wing bars was fairly straightforward.

2005 Reports Origins Uncertain

Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*)

2005-72-A/B One, Eisenhower Park, **Nassau**, 24 Dec sporadically to 24 Jan 2006 (Angus Wilson, Brendan Fogarty, ph A. Wilson, B. Fogarty).

At this time, the Committee has concerns on the origins of Barnacle Geese due to the fact that they are routinely kept and escapes are well known. There were no questions concerning the identification of this bird, since the reports included two excellent photographs. The fact that the same flock at one point also contained a Greenland Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons flavirostris*) was encouraging. However, comments that the bird "seemed tame" created further concern, and the park itself was quite urban in character. The Committee continues to discuss and debate the status of Barnacle Goose in NYS.

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*)

2005-80-A One, Ocean Parkway at Cedar Beach, **Suffolk**, 18 Dec (Ken Feustel).

The Committee struggled over this record with two concerns. First, during the period that this falcon was being observed, information appeared on the NY list that this bird had allegedly been lost recently by a falconer. Various inquiries turned up a report to the NYS agency which monitors falconry of a Gyr Falcon X Peregrine Falcon (*F. peregrinus*) hybrid lost near Massapequa Park, about five miles in a direct line from Cedar Beach where the bird was seen most often. Second, the identity of this hawk was questioned on the basis that it might have been a Gyr Falcon X Peregrine Falcon cross. The coloration of the mantle could support this viewpoint. After much debate, it was believed that the bird was possibly correctly identified but the concerns about origin persisted.

2005 Reports Origins Unnatural

Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*)

2005-27-A/B Two, near Carncross Road, Savannah, **Wayne**, 20 May (William W. Watson, Gerald S. Lazarczyk).

2005-69-A Two adults, three young, south side of Atlantic Ave, one mile east of county line, **Wayne**, 4-6 June (Robert G. Spahn, ph R. Spahn).

Trumpeter Swans continue to be found in the lake plains region of the state. Bob Spahn provided photographic evidence of a family group of fledglings and untagged adults in western Wayne Co. This breeding pair is believed to be progeny of birds introduced into western NY or Ontario, Canada. Although this species does not yet meet the NYSARC criteria for a fully established introduced species in NY, it is clearly moving in that direction. Birders are encouraged to continue documenting the occurrence and confirmed breeding of this species.

Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*)

2005-22-A/G Three, Ripley Hawkwatch #2, **Chautauqua**, 6 April (Bill Dietz, R. Gilbert Randell, Jann Randell, Leonard DeFrancisco, Melvin Freeborough, Tom Wasilewski, Robert Sundell, sketches R. Randell, L. DeFrancisco, M. Freeborough).

2005-44-A One, Number Four Road, Lowville, **Lewis**, 12 Aug (Chris Reidy).

The dedicated hawkwatchers gathered at Ripley are quite used to seeing migrant Sandhill Cranes (*G. canadensis*), having logged an impressive 59 in 2004 alone, and were about to add three more for the 2005 count when, at around noon on 6 Apr, three cranes were spotted from watch site #2 flying east about a quarter of a mile away. The five observers, Jann Randell, Gil Randell, Mel Freeborough, Bill Dietz and Tom Wasilewski, immediately realized that these were not Sandhills but in fact Whooping Cranes. Two additional observers, Len DeFrancisco and Bob Sundell, situated at site #4, were contacted by radio and were also able to study the birds, albeit at greater distance. Gil Randell contacted Tim Sullivan of the US Fish & Wildlife Service, and David Stilwell wrote back to provide further information about the birds. The Lewis Co. bird was found along the Black River floodplain, standing in a wet hayfield beside two Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias*). All four birds belong to a captive-raised population that has been introduced to the east in hopes of establishing a second migratory population as a hedge against any environmental catastrophe that might afflict the remaining wild population, which migrates between the Gulf Coast of Texas and western Canada. Most of these introduced birds winter in northern Florida and are being trained to migrate to Wisconsin in the summer but can evidently wander off course. The aggregate reports for both submissions adequately address the identification of these spectacular birds and allowed unambiguous confirmation of their origins. Included with the Ripley materials is a letter from the US Fish & Wildlife Service (NYSARC 2005-22-G) confirming that one of the trio (bird "1-03") was fitted with a satellite transmitter and that the resulting telemetry data confirmed the location. The companion birds are believed to be

“9-03” and “18-03”. Two days earlier, the cranes were monitored in a field next to the Chagrin River in Lake Co., Ohio and, after passing Ripley, were recorded again near Holland Center, Grey Co., Ontario, on 13 Apr before heading towards the Quebec border. The Lewis Co. crane sported color leg bands (right leg: green above red and left leg: tan above green) and is identified as #309, a female hatched in 2003. According to the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership, crane #309 began her spring 2005 migration in Jones County, North Carolina on 30 Mar accompanied by two other cranes. They were next spotted east of Lake Huron, Ontario, but on 8 May, #309 was found alone on the northern shore of the St. Lawrence River, northeast of Lake Ontario. It then reappeared in west central Vermont on 9 Jun, where it remained to 30 Jun. The two missing flock mates were captured in Michigan on 30 Jun and transported to Wisconsin. Crane #309 was then reported from Lewis Co., NY on 11 Aug and lingered in the area until 27 Oct. On 12 Dec this crane was resighted in Beaufort Co., North Carolina, having completed a successful round trip migration. There is no historical evidence that Whooping Crane has occurred in NY, but in the 1880s some bred as far east as central Illinois and occasional wintering birds were recorded from New Jersey southwards (Lewis 1995). Because these cranes are part of an experimental population that is not established and will require quite some time to gain that status, they are not yet eligible for addition to the NYS Checklist.

2005 Report Accepted in Revised Form

Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus/sasin*)

2005-77-A One female, home of Bob & Lorraine Sherman, Glenwood, Town of Concord, Erie, 27 Nov (David F. Suggs, ph Lorraine Sherman).

This Rufous (*S. rufus*) or Allen's (*S. sasin*) Hummingbird was discovered in the first or second week of October and remained until 8 Dec. The observers provided notes, a sketch and photographs. In spite of the careful study and observations, we were unable to determine the exact species. The photos were sufficient to determine the age and sex and eliminated Broad-tailed (*S. platycercus*) and Calliope (*Stellula calliope*) Hummingbirds, but Allen's could not be ruled out in favor of the more likely Rufous.

2005 Report Reviewed - No Decision Rendered

Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) X Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*)

2005-16-A One, Lake Ontario, Fairhaven State Park, Cayuga, 12 Mar (Kevin McGann, ph K. McGann).

The proposed parentage seems to offer the most plausible explanation for the unusual appearance of this bird and is consistent with similar examples also thought to be this combination. However, other hybrid combinations might also

look similar, and without stronger evidence, such as seeing both parents attending to the bird as a duckling or DNA testing, the Committee felt the parental lineage could not be determined with true confidence.

2004 Reports Accepted

Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*)

2004-87-A One male, Derby Hill Bird Observatory, **Oswego**, 23 Apr (Gerard Phillips, photo by G. Phillips).

Gerard Phillips photographed this Yellow-throated Warbler that was originally found by a couple visiting from Quebec. The yellow superloral portion of the supercilium is strongly suggestive of the nominate subspecies (*D. d. dominica*), which nests on the eastern coastal plain.

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva pallida*)

2004-88-A One specimen, Rye, **Westchester**, 16 Dec (Thomas W. Burke, ph Andy Guthrie).

This recently expired Cave Swallow was found lying on the sidewalk under a bridge supporting I-95, where it had presumably roosted and succumbed to the cold during the night. The specimen was deposited in the American Museum of Natural History collection (AMNH 836153) and represents the first record for Westchester Co and Region 9. Based on measurements taken by Peter Capainolo, the bird is very likely of the southwestern subspecies *pallida*, the population comprising the vast majority, if not all, of the late fall incursions to the northeast, but research does continue into the molecular aspects of this issue.

2004 Report Origins Uncertain

Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*)

2004-86-A One, Hoosic River, Schadicoke, **Rensselaer**, 14 Mar (Richard Guthrie).

This Barnacle Goose was discovered and photographed by Rich Guthrie during a Hudson Mohawk Bird Club field trip. The photos leave no issue concerning identification. The Committee continues to view the status of this Eurasian goose as problematic due to the past history of known releases/escapes. However, the Committee also recognizes that at least some of these individuals are very likely to be of wild origin and will continue to carefully monitor the patterns of occurrence. Reports from any time of the year are strongly encouraged.

1994 Report Accepted

Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*)

1994-62-A One, Cuba, Allegany, 13-14 Dec (Winnie Hettinger, ph W. Hettinger).

This first-year bird was found in a parking lot around the time when Lake Erie was beginning to freeze over. It was brought to the Songwings Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Belfast, Allegany Co., kept overnight for observation, then banded and released at a water treatment plant in Olean, Cattaraugus Co., where warm water from the plant keeps the Allegheny River open. This is the first record of Northern Gannet for Allegany Co. and one of very few non-coastal records away from the Great Lakes.

Reports Not Accepted

Reports are not accepted by NYSARC for various reasons. Often, the material submitted to the Committee was considered insufficient or too vague to properly document the occurrence and/or eliminate similar species. Simply stating the species observed and the location is rarely enough for acceptance. Likewise, saying that it "looked just like the illustration in the field guide" is unlikely to be sufficient. Records are never rejected because the observer is unfamiliar to the Committee or has had records rejected in the past. Every effort is made to be as fair and objective as possible, but if the Committee is unsure about a submission, it tends to err on the conservative side, preferring not to accept a good record rather than validate a bad one. Descriptions prepared from memory weeks, months, or even years after a sighting are seldom voted on favorably. The Committee cannot overstate the importance of taking field notes of uncommon or rare birds while the bird is under study or, if this is not possible, immediately afterwards. It is very helpful to include a photocopy of your field notes with the report. This helps the Committee to know what was seen at the time of the observation, before field guides or other sources of information were consulted. Field sketches, no matter how crude, can be extremely useful in illustrating what you saw. Lastly, when writing a report, it is very important to explain how you settled on the identification. What did you see or hear that clinched the identification for you? This vital aspect of a good report is frequently omitted. Providing a detailed answer to this question will greatly enhance the report and further improve your birding skills. All submissions, whether accepted or not, remain in the archive and can be re-evaluated if additional substantive material is presented. The Secretary or Chair can advise on whether the new information is sufficient to warrant re-evaluation by the Committee.

2005 Reports Not Accepted

Black Brant (*Branta bernicla nigricans*)

2005-67-A One, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, **Queens**, 30 Oct.

The Committee agreed with the observer that the combination of dark belly and relatively extensive white throat pattern indicate something other than a typically plumaged Atlantic Brant (*B. b. hrota*). However, distinguishing Black Brant from other relatively dark-plumaged populations of Brant, and from possible intergrades between these and Atlantic Brant, is complicated and requires more detail than the observer was able to discern during his brief view of the bird as it flew overhead.

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)

2005-65-A/D One first winter, Spearman Road, Cumberland Head, Plattsburg, **Clinton**, 27-28 Nov.

The Committee was concerned that the description of this bird, particularly the dirty or dark appearance of some of the neck, and the lack of a good description of the overall shape of the bird, might not adequately eliminate Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*). The sketch provided could not be clearly assigned to Red-necked or Western Grebe. In addition, the observers made no mention of or comparison to the Western Grebe seen in the same general location almost four weeks earlier.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

2005-34-A One adult, William H. Pouch Scout Camp, Staten Island, **Richmond**, 11 Jun.

The Committee thought that although possibly correct, the identification was not supported by definitive field marks. The description of the bird was brief and lacked sufficient information (shape, coloration or tail characteristics) to separate it from other species.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*)

2005-42-A, One, Letsonville Road, Schroon, **Essex**, 6 Jul.

The observer had brief views of this hawk as it perched on top of a telephone pole just before taking flight. Very few details of the appearance of the hawk were provided in the report, and these do not eliminate other possibilities. The timing and location are also decidedly unexpected for this western species; to date NYS records are concentrated in a rather narrow period of migration.

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*)

2005-5-A One, Glens Falls, **Warren**, 21 Jan.

This hawk was observed by naked eye, first as it flew over a car and then as it perched in a tree. The limited description was insufficient to establish the identification as a Gyr Falcon. Unfortunately, the narrative did not articulate how the bird was identified other than stating that it looked like an internet photo which was viewed at some unspecified time after the observation.

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*)

2005-10-A One third cycle, Van Cleef Lake, **Seneca**, 19 Feb.

Three photographs accompanied this report and were somewhat suggestive of a Thayer's Gull, a challenging identification in this plumage. In carefully reviewing the photographs and description, the Committee felt that as a whole the details were more suggestive of a female American Herring Gull (*L. argentatus smithsonianus*). In particular, the largely black underside to the outer primary and sharply defined white spot are not expected for Thayer's Gull. Although eye color is known to be highly variable, the paleness of the eye was also less than ideal for Thayer's Gull and well within the range of a subadult Herring Gull. The overall structure of the bird and the blackish rather than gray primary tips argued against Kumlien's Iceland Gull (*L. glaucoides kumlieni*).

Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*)

2005-47-A Two, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, **Queens**, 4 Sep.

These two terns were observed bathing in shallow water near the shingle island at the north end of the East Pond at Jamaica Bay WR. A prominent yellow tip to the slender bill and black legs were the only field marks noted in the report. Although possibly correct, the details provided did not sufficiently exclude other species of terns, including adult Common Tern (*S. hirundo*) in transitional plumage with a pale tipped bill. Among the basic important field marks not addressed in the report were the expected larger and paler aspects of a Sandwich Tern and the presence/absence of a crest. The Committee also felt that the East Pond of Jamaica Bay was very atypical habitat for Sandwich Tern, which in NYS at least has shown a very strong preference for ocean beaches and inlets. Even Royal Tern (*S. maxima*), a species that occurs regularly on the nearby barrier beach, is very unusual at this location.

Black Guillemot (*Cephus grylle*)

2005-59-A Fourteen, Lake Champlain, east of Cumberland Head, **Clinton**, 8 Nov.

Using a telescope, this experienced lake-watcher studied a flock of approximately 14 birds flying down Lake Champlain between Cumberland Head, Clinton Co., NY and Grand Isle, Grand Isle Co., Vermont, where the observer was located. For most of the observation period, the flock was thought to be in Vermont waters but then definitely crossed over into NY. The observer estimates that the birds were viewed from a distance of between 1,200 meters (1,312 yards) and 2,400 m (2,625 yds). Ten of the birds appeared brilliant white in the sun and were considered adults, with four duskiest birds at the rear of the flock identified as juveniles. After two rounds of review, the Committee agreed on two general concerns. The first was the sheer number of birds involved. Even for an Atlantic coastal report of Black Guillemots, a flock of this size would be quite exceptional. The species is typically seen in ones or twos rather than in larger flocks, although admittedly this may not hold true in the very high arctic where Black Guillemots can be one of the most numerous birds and will

concentrate into flocks in pursuit of localized prey. Second, the Committee felt that several details in the description were in conflict with the identification. For example, the statement that the legs were dark rather than red and that the wing patches were easier to see when the birds were traveling away from the observer rather than side on were quite contrary to Committee members' expectations and field experience. Given the considerable distance involved, the Committee felt that other possibilities could not be rigorously excluded by the details provided and that at least one important candidate family was not even discussed by the observer. The occurrence of Black Guillemots on freshwater was less of a problem. Although very rare, there is clear precedent for the occurrence of single Black Guillemots on lakes in the northeast, several of which have been well documented. Based on the exceptional number of birds involved, the fact that they were moving across the lake in an uncharacteristic fashion and the above mentioned flaws in the description, the Committee voted not to accept this unique report.

Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*)

2005-24-A One, Van Cortland Park, **Westchester**, 16 Apr.

The extensive database of arrival dates collected and published in *The Kingbird* indicates that the large majority of Willow Flycatchers arrive on their NYS breeding grounds in the later half of May. Thus this report from Van Cortland Park in the outskirts of New York City would be unusually early. The observer provided a sketch of the bird, suggesting that it was indeed an *Empidonax* flycatcher, but the level of detail was insufficient to determine the species.

Bicknell's Thrush (*Catharus bicknelli*)

2005-83-A One, Webster Park, Webster, **Monroe**, 9 Sep.

2005-84-A One, Hamlin Beach State Park, Hamlin, **Monroe**, 19 & 27 Sep.

These two reports relied on the interpretation of daytime calls given by *Catharus* thrushes grounded near the shore of Lake Ontario during fall migration. The birds themselves were not seen. The observer had previously spent time carefully reviewing tapes of nocturnal flight calls and considered these daytime calls inconsistent with those of Gray-cheeked Thrush (*C. minimus*), which were noted separately. Banding studies indicate that Bicknell's Thrush is a rare fall migrant in the western NY regions and approximately only 1% of the "Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's" Thrushes captured in Region 2 appear to be Bicknell's. It is thus conceivable that the identification of these two was correct, however, the Committee was concerned that the reliability of the vocal criteria used to distinguish between the two species is not well-established and that calls are likely to vary, especially if comparing nocturnal flight notes with vocalizations made by landed birds during daylight. The Committee also lamented the absence of documentation in the form of recordings, recognizing that even the ablest ear must have some uncertainty. That said, the observer is to be credited for trying to push the envelope in terms of using call notes as field identification criteria to aid in separating these extremely similar and skulking species. Combining the study of call notes (preferably recorded) with visual inspection and photography

could be of value in understanding the migration patterns of these very closely related thrushes.

Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*)

2005-48-A One, Champlain, Clinton, 13 Sep.

This small bird was first noticed when it perched on a fence post alongside a wet pasture on the shore of Lake Champlain. The observer initially suspected an American Pipit (*Anthus rubescens*) but, on viewing the bird by telescope, noted bright yellow undertail coverts. The yellowish underparts became paler towards the breast and on the lower chest the dull wash was overlaid with brownish speckles giving the impression of discontinuous streaks. The flight was described as undulating, typical of wagtails, but no flight call was heard. The crown appeared to be darker than the olive-gray back, with an off-white superciliary stripe that extended well behind the eye. A dark cheek patch, faint malar stripe and pipit-like impression were also noted. The wings were dark with whitish streaks and lacked prominent wingbars. The tail was black but not especially long. After allowing a few seconds of study by telescope, the bird dropped into the weedy vegetation and was not seen again. The observer acknowledged that the report probably lacked sufficient detail and documentation for acceptance as a first state record but correctly felt that it was worth archiving. The Committee felt that although aspects of the description were consistent with a yellow-type wagtail, there were several other species that also needed to be considered, such as “Western” Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum palmarum*).

Swainson’s Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*)

2005-25-A One, New Suffolk Ave, Cutchogue, Suffolk, 12 May.

This report comes from a private yard on the North Fork of Long Island and falls within the timeframe of the unprecedented incursion of southeastern land birds to New York City and central Long Island, during which a total of five Swainson’s Warblers were reported (Mitra and Lindsay 2005; Veit et al. 2005). The bird was seen in the open for a few seconds before flying across the street into a hedge and vanishing for good. The Committee agreed that the details noted were generally consistent with Swainson’s Warbler but felt that, considering the great rarity of the species involved, some additional points were needed to firmly rule out Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorum*) and other potential confusion species.

Nelson’s Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*)

2005-15-A One, 6 1/2 Station Road, Goshen, Orange, 9 Apr.

The description of this sparrow was suggestive of a sharp-tailed sparrow, but it did not provide enough critical detail and analysis to exclude several other possibilities. The inland location renders Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*A. caudacutus*) very unlikely, but comparison of the bird to this species would have been very helpful. Nelson’s Sharp-tailed Sparrow is a very late migrant in spring, typically passing through NY in late May. Although the marshes in Goshen

might provide suitable habitat for an individual of this species to overwinter, such a record would be extremely unusual.

“Ipswich” Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis princeps*)

2005-82-A One, Stone Ridge, Ulster, 29 Dec.

The distinctive “Ipswich” Sparrow occurs as a regular winter visitor to coastal sections of NY, strongly favoring sandy areas close to the ocean. Inland sightings are decidedly rare and require careful documentation to exclude other subspecies of Savannah Sparrow or even other sparrow species. The Committee felt that this description of a large, pale Savannah Sparrow may have been an “Ipswich” but that the incomplete details provided were not sufficient to safely rule out other possibilities.

Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*)

2005-29-A One male, one female, Stillwater Lake, Fahnestock State Park, Putnam, 20 May.

The observer reported a pair of Black-headed Grosbeaks. Neither bird was adequately described nor were any photos taken. The first bird sighted was described as a female, and the Committee cautions that separation of female and immature Rose-breasted (*P. ludovicianus*) and Black-headed Grosbeaks requires significant study. The scant details provided did not allow an assessment of what species this could have been. Under the behavior section of the report, the observer states that the female was joined by a male, but no description of this second bird was provided.

2004 Report Not Accepted

Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*)

2004-89-A One, Mt. Loretto Unique Area, Staten Island, **Richmond**, 13 Oct.

Although very spare, this report had two important virtues: it was a candid field impression from the time of the observation, and it described several field marks of Yellow Rail. The report, which came to NYSARC as an email sent to a local listserve, is, however, very much lacking in many important details needed to separate this bird from Sora (*Porzana carolina*) or other possible species. Given how rarely Yellow Rail is sighted in this state, the Committee felt that the sketchy details provided were inadequate for acceptance.

1907 Report Not Accepted

Eurasian Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*)

1907-1-A One specimen, from specimen collection at Rutgers University, labeled as NY 1907 (Blake Mathys).

Blake Mathys provided the Committee with two photographs, one each of the ventral and dorsal aspects of a Eurasian Kestrel specimen that he had uncovered whilst reorganizing the bird skin collection at Rutgers University. The specimen carried two labels, one a Smithsonian Institution label with the hand-written *The Kingbird* 2008 December; 58 (4)

notation "New York, August 3rd, 1907" with "Sep?" written elsewhere on the tag, and a second label from the private collection of B. S. Bowdish with the penciled notation "*Falco tinnunculus* 64410." Beecher S. Bowdish was a nineteenth and early twentieth century ornithologist who collected specimens, eggs and nests and published a number of ornithological papers. He is known for his studies of Puerto Rican birds, was an early convert to the merits of banding rather than collecting, and was one of the founders of the New Jersey Audubon Society. Although born in Phelps, NY, he resided for most of his life in Demarest, New Jersey, and died on 21 Feb 1963 at the advanced age of 91.

The photographs were forwarded to Dick Forsman, an expert on Eurasian raptors, who confirmed the identification to species and suggested that this was most likely an immature male. The Committee concurred with the identification and turned its attention to the question of whether the specimen was secured in NY or some other location. The Smithsonian was contacted but has no record of this specimen. The fact that the Smithsonian tag lacks an identification number and there is no record of the specimen being transferred to the Rutgers collection is an indication that it probably was never actually part of the Smithsonian collection, even though there are other specimens from Bowdish. Beecher Bowdish's journals are held by the New York State Museum in Albany, but there is no mention of a Eurasian Kestrel specimen in the notes in that timeframe. However the notes do affirm that he was working in the NY and New Jersey areas. Along the same lines, his journals make no reference to the handwritten identification number he apparently assigned to this specimen.

Given the lack of a clear indication as to where the bird was collected, the Committee decided that it could not be assumed to be a wild bird taken in the field in NYS. A likely scenario is that Beecher Bowdish received this specimen from someone else and had added it to his collection. Given his publications and involvement in ornithological research, he would have been aware of the rarity of this species in North America.

CONTRIBUTORS

Seth Ausubel, Brenda Best, Gail M. Black, Shane Blodgett, Thomas W. Burke, Rafael G. Campos-Ramirez, Mark Chao, Ed Coyle, Dorothy Crumb, Steven Daniels, Willie D'Anna, Gregg Dashnau, Mark Dedea, Leonard DeFrancisco, Bill Dietz, Dean DiTommaso, Julie Dowd, David W. Eib, Ken Feustel, Howard Fischer, Brendan Fogarty, Melvin Freeborough, Douglas J. Futuyma, Yolanda Garcia, Dick Gershon, Arie Gilbert, Paul H. Gillen, Jr., Douglas Gochfeld, Paul A. Guris, Andy Guthrie, Richard Guthrie, Nikolas Haass, Michael Harvey, John Heidecker, Roger Heintz, Winnie Hettinger, Michael Higgiston, David Hoag, Rob Jett, William E. Krueger, Ed Lam, Gerald S. Lazarczyk, Daniel Lebbin, Tim Lentz, Patricia Lindsay, Martin Lofgren, Jean Loscalzo, Curtis Marantz, Kevin McGann, Jay McGowan, Kevin McGowan, Matthew Medler, Charles E. Mitchell, Shaibal S. Mitra, Michael Morgante, Steve Nanz, David Nyzio, Marilyn Pecoraro-O'Connell, Gerard Phillips, Bill Purcell, Barbara Putnam,

Jann Randell, R. Gilbert Randell, Chris Reidy, Dana Rohleder, Mason Ryan, Seymour Schiff, Michael Shanley, Lorraine Sherman, Dominic Sherony, Sean Sime, Jeanne Skelly, Gerry Smith, Christine Sousa, Angel Souto, Charles C. Spagnoli, Robert G. Spahn, Lloyd Spitalnik, Birgit Stanford, Rex Stanford, David F. Suggs, Robert Sundell, Jeremy Taylor, Chris Tessaglia-Hymes, Diane Tessaglia-Hymes, Andrew VanNorstrand, Richard R. Veit, Tom Wasilewski, William W. Watson, T. Michael White, Angus Wilson, Seth Wollney.

SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF THE NEW YORK STATE AVIAN RECORDS COMMITTEE:

Angus Wilson (Chair), Jeanne Skelly (Secretary),
Jeffrey S. Bolsinger, Thomas W. Burke, Willie D'Anna, Andrew Guthrie,
Shaibal S. Mitra and Dominic Sherony.

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EXEMPLARY REPORTS OF RARE BIRDS FROM 2005

Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*) 2005-3-A

DATE(S) OF OBSERVATION: 27 February 2005

LOCALITY: Route 89, Varick, Seneca Co., NY

TIME & LENGTH OF OBSERVATION: 3 observations lasting 5-10 minutes each starting at (approximately) 15:20, 15:40, and 15:50.

SUBMITTER NAME: Michael Harvey

OTHER OBSERVER(S): Dan Lebbin, Michael Andersen, Tim Lenz, Jay McGowan, Bob McGuire, Matt Medler

LIGHT CONDITIONS: Moderately strong illumination (1st observation), and backlight (actually perhaps coming from about 45 degrees to the side of direct backlight) during the latter two observations

OPTICS: Bausch and Lomb Discoverer 10x42 binoculars, Leica Televid 77 scope with 20-60x zoom eyepiece, Nikon Coolpix 4500 digital camera.

NUMBER/SIZE/SHAPE

One individual. The bird was quite large, large enough so that it seemed it would be more easily passed off as a Red-tailed Hawk than a falcon on a brief glimpse. It was quite bulky in structure, with a relatively small head, wide shoulders, and a strongly hooked bill. The tail was quite long in relation to the wings, with the folded primaries ending a few inches short of the tail tip. The talons, projecting from beneath fluffed body feathers, appeared quite large. In flight, the bird was notably broad-winged, especially from the base to the wrist, the distal portions of the wings tapering to blunt points. The bulky appearance was noted in flight as well.

COLOR & PATTERN

Most views of the bird were from the front, with what was visible of the upperparts being a soft, fairly pale slate-gray. The head was largely this pale slate-gray without any especially strong markings. Looking closely, the moustachial (or possibly malar?) area exhibited a slightly, but not strongly contrasting, darker stripe. A thin, pale superciliary stripe was also noted. The throat was white. Dark gray underpart markings were set on a clean white background. These markings were small spots on the breast, enlarging and merging into thick and very noticeable bars on the flanks which continued down to the undertail coverts/crissum. The eyes were dark with bold yellow eye rings (broadest laterally). The cere was a somewhat paler shade of yellow. Talons were bright yellow with dark claws.

BEHAVIOR

No vocalizations were heard. During the first two observations, the bird perched on branches protruding from large, lakeside hardwoods. It was largely still at this point, making only small movements of the head and body. During the third observation of it perched, it preened several times, lifting its tail, wings, and legs in the process. When lifting its (left?) leg to its bill, no jesses or similar adornments were visible, nor were they visible during observations of the bird perched and in flight. The falcon flew with a strong and very direct flight. Lifting its wings briefly, it would drop off the perch and assume a constant, moderately deep flap with few if any glides interspersed. After the final observation, it flew rapidly and directly upwards and to the south, gaining quite a bit of elevation before it was lost from sight.

HABITAT

The bird was perched in large hardwoods (live in the first two cases, the top of a thick snag in the last) adjacent to a relatively large, deep lake. Adjacent upland habitat consisted of residential developments, vineyards, and scattered agricultural fields. The falcon was not observed directly associating with other species. Nearby avifauna consisted of large numbers of waterfowl (chiefly Canada Geese, but also the locally expected duck species) both on the nearby lake and coming and going overhead.

HOW IDENTIFICATION WAS DETERMINED

The bird's large size and low-contrast head pattern were the first things noticed that suggested this bird was really worth looking at!

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Observer's prior experience with this species is 2 individuals seen in Massachusetts - a gray-morph juv. on Plum Island and a dark-morph adult in Boston (2 sightings of the latter individual).

SIMILAR SPECIES:

PEREGRINE FALCON: easily eliminated by the low-contrast head pattern, large size, broad and less-pointed wings, and relatively long tail in relation to folded primaries of the bird in question. Prior experience with this species extensive from both the eastern and western US and more limited from Europe.

PRAIRIE FALCON: eliminated by the fairly uniform graying face, size, structure, and relatively uniformly pale underwings of the bird in question. Limited prior experience with this species from Montana and California.

MERLIN: eliminated by size and subtleties of plumage. Extensive prior experience with this species in North America, limited experience in Europe.

VARIOUS EUROPEAN FALCONS (Saker, Lanner, etc.) often kept in captivity are also eliminated by the uniform gray face pattern and upperparts, even larger

size, barred flanks (vs. streaked in Saker), and relatively broader wings of the bird in question. A hybrid is more difficult to eliminate, but judging by the close consistency of all features with Gyrfalcon and the apparent lack of any features approaching any European falcon species, this possibility is not very plausible. No prior experience with these species/hybrids.

BRIEF NOTES EXACTLY AS WRITTEN DURING INITIAL FIELD OBSERVATION:

- yellow legs
- yellow eye ring
- pale (yellow?) cere
- dark eye
- plain gray face
- spotted breast
- barred/spotted flanks on white background

PHOTO FILES ATTACHED:

17825414_Gyr1.JPG Michael Harvey, 27 February 2005

17825414_Gyr2.JPG Michael Harvey, 27 February 2005

OTHER EVIDENCE: Photos by Dan Lebbin, Jay McGowan, and Tim Lenz.

DATE/TIME WRITTEN: 28 February 2005

Michael Harvey, 7322 Lowrise 7, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853

Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*) 2005-46-A

DATE(S) OF OBSERVATION: August 31, 2005

LOCALITY: Breezy Point, Queens County, NY

TIME & LENGTH OF OBSERVATION: 6:45 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

SUBMITTER NAME: Shane Blodgett

OTHER OBSERVER(S): None

LIGHT CONDITIONS: Scattered storm clouds with sun setting behind observer. Would judge lighting conditions as very good to excellent.

DISTANCE IN METERS: 15-30 meters

OPTICS: Nikon Venturers 10x42, Zeiss Diascope 85mm w/ 20x-60x zoom

NUMBER/SIZE/SHAPE

2 terns intermediate in size between the surrounding Common Terns and Black Skimmers. Decidedly larger than the Common Terns, with longer legs that made

them stand taller than the Commons around them. Similar in shape to the Commons, though larger with back to front length accentuated by long bill. Flat aspect to crown very prominent, accentuated by ragged crest on back of head.

COLOR & PATTERN

Bird 1 was a uniform pale gray on the upperparts, paler overall than surrounding Commons. There was a hint of darker shading in the area of greater coverts/lower scapulars. The underparts were white, and the primaries were very dark, contrasting with the upper parts. One of the visible primaries exhibited a very prominent white shaft.

The head pattern was distinctive with the top and front of the head being white with a band of black that started just behind the eye, initially being as wide as the eye and then widening and reaching around the back of the head, with the blackish feathers at the back of the head forming an obvious crest. The black was not jet black, as some white feathering amongst the black gave a kind of salt and pepper look. At times the crest was more relaxed and hung down the back of the nape. There was a small area of white between the back of the eye and the beginning of the black, and a very noticeable white eye crescent, particularly on the underside and back of the eye. There was also some black in front of the eye.

The legs were black and longer than the commons, again making the bird stand taller. The bill was longer and deeper than the Commons, all-black with a solid 1/4-1/2 inch yellow tip.

Bird 2 (which I aged as a juvenile) was paler even than Bird 1 with the upperparts approaching white. There were some dusky markings on the greater coverts and upper back. There were more pronounced markings in the carpal bar area than Bird 1. The tertials were dark-centered with pale edging and the primaries were similar in color to Bird 1. The legs were black, again longer, and the bill was black with some yellow smudging, particularly along the line where the mandibles meet. No prominent yellow tip like on Bird 1. The crest on Bird 2 was browner than on Bird 1, and was not quite as long.

BEHAVIOR

Roosting among several thousand Common Terns of all ages, with another ~ 1,000 Black Skimmers. The birds were flushed and changed position 4-5 times while observing. When flushed I immediately lost them in the mass of birds and only once was able to catch the juvenile bird in flight just as it was about to land. As it lit I noticed how much paler and longer winged (and larger) it was. Upon realighting I was quickly able to relocate them as, once again they were decidedly larger and stood above the surrounding Common Terns. Initially spotted at a distance of about 20 meters, the birds landed at various other distances ranging from 15-30 meters. Initially both birds were preening, but Bird 2 stopped and started to exhibit begging behavior toward Bird 1, much to Bird 1's annoyance. 2 out of the 4-5 times the birds flushed they relit in different areas though never more than 15-20 feet apart. It almost seemed as if Bird 1 was consciously trying

to get some space between them. Bird 2 would walk back over to Bird 1 and start begging again.

Although I did not see them calling, and don't know the Sandwich Tern's call, twice when the flocks were in the air I heard an unfamiliar tern-like call that did not match anything that I have heard either a Common Tern or Black Skimmer make. I have not been able to find a satisfactory recording of Sandwich Tern on-line (the e-nature recordings sound like a chattering flock), but the description in Sibley's (keeriik) closely approximates the call I heard.

HABITAT

Barrier beach with dunes separating beach from Breezy Point Cooperative. Birds were roosting on beach nearer dunes with some birds amongst beach grass but most out in open.

HOW IDENTIFICATION WAS DETERMINED

Size, paleness of upperparts (particularly Bird 2), ragged black crest with white forehead and crown, black legs, and long black bill with prominent yellow-tip on Bird 1, yellow smudging on bird 2.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

There were thousands of Common Terns about ranging from near full breeding plumage to juvenile with a smattering of 1st and 2nd summer birds. Some of these birds had black legs and black bills and even a tiny bit of yellow on the tip of the bill, but none approached the size of or the amount of yellow on the bill of the Sandwich. When I first saw these plumages I took out my Sibley's to review the Sandwich Tern's field marks, not at all expecting 2 of them to fill my scope not more than 5 minutes later. Every time they moved I was quickly able to relocate them, based on size alone. The juvenile was so pale as to appear white at a distance, standing out prominently amongst the grayer backed Commons. Both birds were somewhat bedraggled and weather beaten, neither appearing to be in fresh plumage.

I have seen Sandwich Terns in Hatteras and have a lot of experience with the medium sized Common and Forster's terns. They were too small for Royal and Caspian, too large for Common/Forster's/Arctic/Roseate/Black, bill was not right for Gull-billed and upperparts too pale for Sooty/Bridled. I think most experienced observers would agree that with sufficient looks a Sandwich Tern is a fairly straightforward ID, if not a slam-dunk.

This report was written based on notes I wrote upon arriving home on the 31st. I did not consult any field guides between the sighting and the writing down of the notes.

I initially had gone out to look for pelagics as the winds had been SSE for 4-5 days before. When I got to the beach around 4:00 p.m. the winds were due S at 35-40 mph+, a remnant of Hurricane Katrina. By the time the sun was setting winds had dropped to around 10 mph from the SW. With winds scheduled to shift the next day to the N I was afraid these birds would not be long for these

parts. I posted the sighting on-line but as there has not been any subsequent postings I am assuming the birds were either not relocated or even looked for.

OTHER EVIDENCE

Unfortunately I had forgotten my digital camera and my cellphone (I'm still kicking myself). Due to the lateness of the day I felt certain that were I to walk back to find the nearest telephone (which would have taken at least 20-30 minutes) to get the word out, it would be too dark to see by the time anyone could arrive. I felt the time would be better spent observing.

DATE/TIME WRITTEN: Sept. 2 - 10:00a.m.

Shane Blodgett, 423 Westminster Road, Brooklyn NY 11218

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NEW YORK STATE ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION'S 61ST ANNUAL MEETING. ROCHESTER, NY, 20 SEPTEMBER 2008

The 61st Annual Meeting of the New York State Ornithological Association, Inc. (NYSOA), hosted by Rochester Birding Association and Burroughs Audubon Nature Club, was called to order at 9:36 a.m. Roll call of member clubs revealed there were 43 delegates from 25 clubs, and a quorum was present.

President's Report by Bill Ostrander:

Bill advised the delegates that a new Circulation Manager was needed and read a brief list of the duties involved. He also spoke of NYSOA's newest project, the Young Birders Club.

Reports and Elections:

Phyllis Jones continues the duties of the Archivist. Andy Mason explained the proposed archiving of past issues of *The Kingbird* and stated we are looking for a source of funding for the approximate \$15,000 cost for scanning all the issues in preparation for creating a searchable online database.

Brenda Best reported that we currently have 537 annual members and 53 life members. We also have 44 member clubs. We continue to see a decline in annual and club membership. There is currently a membership committee in place to work on this issue.

The Treasurer's Report dated December 31, 2007, was issued. Bill Reeves reviewed the Balance Sheet and explained the General Operating Fund. Bill stated that 85% of our income is from dues. Brenda Best pointed out that the declining membership is reflected in the Treasurer's Report, since we did not meet our budgeted Dues Income. The Auditing Committee Report was in the process of being prepared.

The delegates heard the last Atlas report from Valerie Freer. The Atlas will be available in December 2008. Valerie, on behalf of NYSOA, New York State Department of Conservation (NYSDEC), and Milo Richmond (Cornell Univ. Cooperative Research Unit), all signed a paper that sets out the rights to the Atlas materials. The rights go jointly to NYSOA and NYSDEC. The Atlas exhibit at the State Museum opens October 3 and runs until next May. A pre-order sheet with a 20% discount was in delegates' packets, and Cornell University Press plans a mailing to Atlas participants with a possible 30-35% discount.

Shai Mitra, editor of *The Kingbird*, advises that issue 58:1 is in the mail. He also explained the changes that he has incorporated into the publication, including a new cover. He continues to work on the backlog. The need for plastic wrappers was questioned, and Shai will advise if there was a cost increase and if the wrappers are recyclable.

Tim Baird, editor of *New York Birders*, advises this publication is about birders more so than birds. A new Conservation column was initiated to publicize what NYSOA does in that area.

Carena Pooth reported the Conservation page of our web site has been re-designed and updated with back information. Adding the scanned *Kingbirds* will be a major update. She will soon be adding the latest NYSARC report and the CBC calendar for the upcoming season.

Andy Mason reported on various conservation issues that we have commented on, including jet skis in Jamaica Bay and our support of the Kittatinny-Shawangunk Migration Corridor. We joined the coalition opposed to the development of the Calverton grasslands on Long Island. We await the final NYSDEC report on wind power. The Conservation Committee was asked if NYSOA was involved in the issue of natural gas drilling, and the committee is aware of the problems. Another issue presented was a proposed ethanol plant in Ogdensburg that also calls for six "Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations" (CAFOs) with 84,000 cows that would result in the conversion of thousands of acres of grassland, shrubland, and forest habitat into corn fields in St. Lawrence County.

Shai Mitra reports that the 2004 NYSARC report is included in the latest issue of *The Kingbird*. The committee met in September, and the 2005 report is written and being finalized.

John Ozard, the NYSDEC representative, presented a handout showing the status of projects for the last year. John also explained the lack of personnel and the financial constraints being placed on NYSDEC at this time.

Andy Mason described the certificates of appreciation given out this year, and said the Stoner award, the Elliott award, and the Meade award will also be given.

Carena Pooth gave a brief presentation on the New York State Young Birders Club (NYSYBC) and advised that Annette Lehner had been appointed as Adult Coordinator.

The Nominating Committee presented the slate. Officers nominated are President – William Ostrander; Vice President – Carena Pooth; Corresponding Secretary – Timothy H. Baird; Recording Secretary – Joan Collins; and Treasurer – William B. Reeves. Nominated for two-year terms as Directors for the 2010 class are John Confer, Jane Graves, and Kathy Schneider. Because John Confer has subsequently withdrawn his name, Kathy Schneider nominated Victor Lamoureux for a two-year Director term. Valerie Freer made a motion that the secretary cast one vote for the entire slate of officers as read. Motion was seconded and approved unanimously. A motion was then made and seconded to vote for each of the directors individually. John Confer received two votes and all others were elected.

The Nominating Committee for 2009 consisting of Berna Lincoln, Jerry Lazarczyk, and Kathy Schneider was elected unanimously. The Auditing Committee for 2009 consisting of Irving Cantor, Peter Capainolo, and Isaac Grant was elected unanimously.

Old Business:

We have no host for next year's Annual Meeting or any future Annual Meeting. Some clubs have been asked, but have declined due to their finances and lack of volunteers. Various options were discussed because we are legally required to hold an annual delegates meeting. Suggestions included holding a small one-day meeting with no banquet and no speaker (vote and bird); holding the meeting in a venue other than a hotel; hiring a meeting planner; having a large meeting every other year and a small meeting in the off years; have NYSOA's Board plan the meeting; shorten the business meeting to essentials only.

New Business:

None.

Motion to adjourn was made by Andy Mason, seconded by Bob Mauceli, and approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:13 p.m.

Awards presented during the Saturday evening banquet:

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to:

- Deep Hollow Ranch for hosting a Pink-footed Goose and a Barnacle Goose in Montauk, NY, and for their cooperation, hospitality, and able assistance to visiting birders.

- Bill and Loretta Groell for hosting a Rufous Hummingbird in West Walworth, NY, and for their cooperation, hospitality, and able assistance to visiting birders.
- John Haas for his efforts in locating and publicizing gulls, winter finches and other avian rarities in Sullivan Co., NY, and for his cooperation, hospitality, and able assistance to visiting birders.
- Curt McDermott for hosting a Hoary Redpoll in Montgomery, NY, and for his cooperation, hospitality, and able assistance to visiting birders.
- Brian Wheeler of American Printing & Typesetting Co., Cortland, NY, for his long and exemplary service to NYSOA in production and printing of the organization's publications.
- Larry Wilson for hosting Rufous Hummingbirds in Houghton, NY, and for his cooperation, hospitality, and able assistance to visiting birders.

The **John J. Elliott Award**, selected by the editorial staff and given for the best article contributed to *The Kingbird* each year, was awarded to Alex Wilson for "Western Reef-Heron (*Egretta gularis gularis*) at Calvert Vaux Park, Brooklyn" in *The Kingbird*, Vol. 57, No. 4, December 2007.

The **Lillian Stoner Award** was given to Shawn Billerman, nominated by the Cayuga Bird Club; Tom Johnson; nominated by the Cayuga Bird Club; and Jeb McConnell, nominated by Professor Kevin Berner, SUNY Cobleskill.

Two **Gordon M. Meade Distinguished Service Awards** were presented, to:

- Valerie Freer for her outstanding leadership, commitment and effort in guiding the Atlas 2000 Project to further documenting the ornithology of New York State.
- Brenda Best for her outstanding service to NYSOA as Recording Secretary and Circulation Manager, and for her contributions to the purposes of the organization and to the birds and birders of New York State.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Best
Recording Secretary

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE NEW YORK STATE AVIAN CHECKLIST

To streamline the review process, the New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC) will publish occasional short notes announcing new additions to the New York State Avian Checklist. Full details of the records will appear in the appropriate Annual Report, as is customary. Sightings from 2005 (see Annual Report in the present issue) were highlighted by the first accepted record of Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, based on an individual photographed on 13 Sep 2005 in Queens Co. (see p. 356). Two additional species were added to the Checklist based on reports from 2006, namely a Western Gull *Larus occidentalis*, photographed at sea off Long Island on 11 Feb 2006, and male Broad-billed Hummingbirds *Cynanthus latirostris* photographed at sugar feeders in Wayne Co. and Tioga Co. on several dates in Jun and Aug 2006. With these inclusions, the NYS list stands at 470 species.

New York State Avian Records Committee: Angus Wilson (Chair), Jeanne Skelly (Secretary), Jeffrey S. Bolsinger, Thomas W. Burke, Willie D'Anna, Andrew Guthrie, Shaibal S. Mitra and Dominic Sherony.

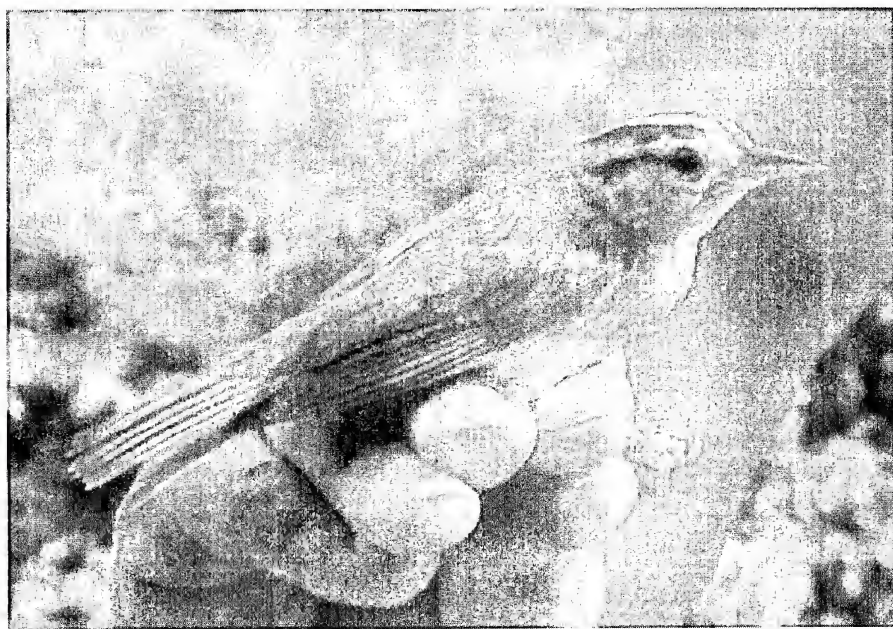
MOLT-MIGRANT WORM-EATING WARBLERS ON COASTAL LONG ISLAND

On 1 July 2008, we captured and banded an adult (after hatching-year, or AHY) Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorus*) at Fort Tilden, Queens County, in the course of routine field work associated the Institute for Bird Populations' MAPS program (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship). At the time of capture, the bird had not yet commenced its pre-basic molt. This individual was recaptured at the same site on 5 August 2008, at which time it had nearly completed its pre-basic molt (the outermost primaries on both wings were almost, but not completely, grown). These paired captures indicate that this individual not only arrived on the Long island barrier beach at least a month earlier than is typical for southbound migrants (Bull 1974: *Birds of New York State*, Cornell Univ. Press), but also completed its pre-basic molt there over the course of a month. Furthermore, we are aware of two similar prior occurrences of this species on Long Island's barrier beaches: an AHY bird we banded at Fort Tilden a year earlier, on 10 July 2007, which had not yet commenced its pre-basic molt; and an AHY banded at Fire Island Lighthouse, Suffolk County, on 23 July 1999, which was in the midst of molting its flight feathers (S. S. Mitra, unpubl. data).

Worm-eating Warbler, like most warblers and many Neotropical migrant passerines, typically completes its pre-basic molt on the breeding grounds, prior to southbound migration (Pyle 1997: *Identification Guide to North American Birds*, Slate Creek Press). This species is a very rare breeder on Long Island, where the few known and suspected breeding sites have been along the North Shore (Smith 2008: *The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State*, Cornell Univ. Press), in woodland settings very unlike the barrier beach shrub thickets described here. Thus, it is highly unlikely that these pre-molt and molting birds encountered on the coast had nested or attempted to nest nearby. Instead, it seems more likely that Long Island's barrier beaches serve as previously unrecognized molting site for small numbers of Worm-eating Warblers prior to southbound migration.

Juliette Goulet, Biology Department, College of Staten Island, 2800 Victory Boulevard, Staten Island, NY 10314

Shaibal S. Mitra, Biology Department, College of Staten Island, 2800 Victory Boulevard, Staten Island, NY 10314



Worm-eating Warbler, Fort Tilden, Queens Co., NY, 10 Jul 2007, copyright Juliette Goulet.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON—SUMMER 2008

Willie D'Anna

4777 E. Lake Rd., Burt, NY 14028
dannapotter@roadrunner.com

WEATHER

June was warm across the State, averaging 2-4° above Regional norms. Rainfall varied, with about half the Regions above and half below normal. July was close to normal in temperature for all Regions with the greatest variance coming from Region 8 at only 2.4° above. While the month was near or even below average in terms of precipitation for western regions, it was wet in Regions 6, 7, and 8. August was slightly cooler than normal for all regions with precipitation varying from 1.5" above normal in Region 1 to 3" below in neighboring Region 2. Such a variance in adjacent Regions is mainly due to the tracks of local convective storms. For the three-month period, most Regions were near normal for both temperature and rainfall. However, Regions 6, 7, and 8 were much wetter than normal and, as a result, most of the weather-related comments were from there. From Region 6: "ground-nesting birds likely suffered..." and "high-water levels left very little shoreline exposed ... and not surprisingly few shorebirds were reported." From Region 7: "the high water along the Clinton County shoreline may account for the variety of puddle ducks at the Chazy Riverlands..." Contrasting were these comments, from Region 4: "nesting this year should not have been a problem due to weather."

BREEDING BIRDS

Bald Eagles are nesting in most Regions and are doing so well now that they hardly elicit comment anymore. Perhaps just as successful in their comeback but still considered endangered in the State by the DEC, Peregrine Falcons were found breeding in six Regions this summer. Merlins are likewise doing well, with sightings in every region and nesting in six. However, in Region 1 they had a slight setback—the species did not nest there after three consecutive years of doing so. Perhaps it is a good sign that the declining American Kestrel received relatively little comment. Region 4 noted the species as being down for the third year but in Region 2, a count of 22 in an area on 22 July seems like a good total. Region 7 also gave some quantitative data for nest-box success. Remarkable was Long Island's first ever nesting record of Turkey Vulture.

Trumpeter Swan bred again in Region 2. In Region 6, where they have nested at one locale since 1995, they bred at two other sites as well. A summering bird in Region 1 was apparently unmated but hints at possible further expansion of this introduced species and its ultimate establishment on the

New York checklist. The most noteworthy of the ducks was Common Goldeneye, which established a second nest record for Region 6. The species also nested in Region 7 where it is less unusual. The only place left in the State that Northern Bobwhite occurs naturally is Long Island. This summer it was noted in better numbers and at more sites there, though unfortunately in such a heavily congested area, this trend is not likely to continue. An unconfirmed report of Common Loons with a baby loon on Lake Ontario would be the first breeding record along the New York side of this Great Lake in many decades.

High-quality wetland habitat is hard to come by so a newly flooded wetland in Volney, Region 5, which hosted Least Bittern, Pied-billed Grebe and Common Moorhen is welcome news. Although not a new site, the Motor Island heronry in Region 1 is thriving with increasing numbers of Great Egrets and continued good numbers of Great Blue Herons and Black-crowned Night-Herons. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons nesting in the City of Mount Vernon, Region 9, made the local papers while a single bird at the Motor Island rookery prompted speculation that this rare inland species could conceivably breed there someday. Measures for controlling the breeding population of Double-crested Cormorant by the DEC continue. In Region 7 this included shooting 878 adults, a controversial tactic that has been used in other Regions as well. The most noteworthy comments for Common Moorhen were from Region 3, where record numbers were counted at Montezuma NWR and from Region 6, where it was noted as absent from at least five locations where it was formerly annual. While the good nesting season at Montezuma, due to managing for higher water levels, is welcome, this writer considers a thinner but more widespread population to be a better situation for long-term stability and therefore laments the losses in Region 6. Sandhill Crane nested again at the Montezuma complex but it is not clear that any fledglings survived. They were also reported again this summer at the Iroquois NWR complex in Region 1 and a pair summered and was observed performing the courtship dance in Region 6. Breeding in another Region seems likely in the near future, indeed, if it has not occurred already.

A late report from Region 10 indicated that Laughing Gull nested for the first time east of Jamaica Bay in 2007. Three Common Tern colonies in Region 6 suffered 25% chick mortality from thunderstorm events in June. Other colonies were unaffected by storms. Common Nighthawks still hang on in Buffalo during the breeding season. Chimney Swifts had a bad year in Region 4, with notes that they disappeared from two regular nesting sites and that numbers were well off of previous years. The species elicited little comment from other Regions. Purple Martins were noted as continuing their slide, including in Region 10 where they were absent from a traditional breeding site. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet in June and July in Region 3 possibly indicates a rare nesting away from the northern parts of the State.

In Region 6, studies at Fort Drum of the "winged warblers" revealed that the ratio of Golden-winged to Blue-winged has changed from about 5:1 in the mid nineties to 1.3:1 this year. In addition, Fort Drum recorded its first three "Lawrence's" Warblers ever. Region 1 editor Mike Morgante appropriately warns against identifying the now-rare Golden-winged by song alone, as birds of

mixed parentage cannot be ruled out by song. Dickcissel continues its recent trend of breeding or summering in the State, with sightings in Regions 1, 6, and 8. Henslow's Sparrows continue their trend in the opposite direction, with no reports in former breeding areas of Regions 1 and 2 and reports from only one locale each in Regions 3, 4, and 8. In Region 6 numbers actually increased but as editor Jeff Bolsinger suggests, this could indicate that the loss of habitat elsewhere in the Region is forcing birds into the few remaining patches of habitat, such as at Fort Drum.

The Region 6 report does an excellent job of putting reports, or the lack thereof, of breeding birds into context. It also offers quantified data for some species, including studies done at Fort Drum. While many birders would agree that Region 7 has some of the best areas for breeding birds in New York, Region 6 offers a tremendous diversity of habitats, including the last best stronghold (if it can still be called that anymore) of grasslands in the State. Along with this, what excites me about Region 6 as a place to study birds is that the density of both resident and visiting birders is quite low, such that the potential for interesting discoveries seems quite high. So, if you like to explore, the next time you are heading to Fort Drum for your annual fix of breeding Whip-poor-wills, nighthawks, Golden-winged Warblers, and Henslow's Sparrows, why not spend some time checking other areas in Region 6? LeConte's and Nelson's Sharp-tailed sparrows and Yellow Rail have all been found there during past summers—perhaps you can be the one to confirm New York's first breeding record for one of these species.

NON-BREEDERS

Hamlin Beach SP in Region 2 has taught us many things over the years, not the least of which is that unexpected birds can occur in any season on Lake Ontario. This summer Brant, Red-throated Loon, and Red-necked Grebe were all seen from there. The Brant and grebe were also found in Region 7, and Snow Goose was also recorded in both Regions this summer. Tolerance to very nearby vehicles led to speculation that a Greater White-fronted Goose in Region 3 was of suspect origin. A Black-bellied Whistling-Duck in Region 8 caused much excitement initially until a yellow tag was noticed on one leg, indicating the bird was likely an escape. A Surf Scoter in Region 8 was a good bird for summer.

Regions 4 and 5 noted an unusual number of Great Egrets. With breeding a regular occurrence in Region 1, evidence for such should be looked for in the heron rookeries of other Regions in the future. Away from Region 10, unusual summer waders included Little Blue Herons in Regions 2 and 3, and both Snowy and Cattle egrets in Region 3. There was also a single report of the latter, as well as a White-faced Ibis, in Region 10. This ibis's range is expanding greatly, and the species is now of near-annual occurrence in the State. The only White Pelican report came from Region 6. A Great Cormorant in Region 9 was only the third summer record there. Five Audubon's Shearwaters were reported on three dates offshore in Region 10. Although there are only five records

accepted by NYSARC, this species may be turned up more frequently with increased offshore efforts in late summer.

Out-of-place Black Vultures were in Regions 1, 2, 6, and 10. The possibility of further breeding of this species should be looked for, especially along our southern tier. After surprising breeding attempts in two New England states, Mississippi Kites are another species that could make an attempt in New York. Two sightings in Region 10 and one in Region 2 may be an unprecedented number for one season. A Golden Eagle in Region 2 was out of season and 40 Broad-winged Hawks migrating at Derby Hill in Region 5 on 8 July was a most unusual date.

With the exception of Region 10, most areas of the State had little shorebird habitat. Highlights included American Avocets and "Western" Willets in Regions 1, 2, and 10, Whimbrel in Regions 5, 6, and 9, a Hudsonian Godwit in Region 3, Marbled Godwit in Region 9, and Red-necked Phalarope in Regions 2 and 10. Region 10 added a Black-necked Stilt.

Long-tailed Jaegers were in Regions 2 and 10, where most of the State's reports come from, but they are still cause for excitement even there. Franklin's and Iceland gulls in Region 1, a Black-headed Gull in Region 7, and Little Gulls in Regions 7 and 10 were excellent summer discoveries. Slightly less unusual were two Laughing Gulls in Region 3 and one in Region 5. Although least frequently encountered during the summer, Lesser Black-backed Gulls were still found in Regions 1, 2, 3, and 10. A July Bridled Tern offshore in Region 10 is earlier than almost all reports of this species. Nine different Arctic Terns spread out through June and July would formerly have been considered unthinkable but now, according to Region 10 editors Pat Lindsay and Shai Mitra, they are considered as likely overlooked in the past. On the other hand, with increasing reports and earlier summer dates, five Sandwich Terns in Region 10 probably reflect a true increase.

Now very rare away from Region 10, a Barn Owl was a great find in Region 8. The owl was heard first, and then confirmed with a visual observation. Common Ravens continue to consolidate and expand their range with sightings of three birds north of breeding areas in Region 2.

A Cerulean Warbler in Region 6 was noted as a rare migrant and I would add that this is especially true in the fall migration. An adult Worm-eating Warbler that was molting its flight feathers was banded in Region 10 on 1 July at a location where they are not known to breed. The bird was recaptured in fresh plumage on 5 August (see p. 348). Unusual sparrows this summer included a Fox in Region 7, a White-crowned in Region 2, and an Am. Tree Sparrow in Region 8. "Winter finches" were widely reported this season. Pine Siskins appeared in Regions 1, 2, 3, 6, and 7 and Evening Grosbeak in Regions 3 through 8. Red Crossbills were found in a remarkable eight Regions, including a bird presumed to be lingering from spring in Region 10, and flocks of about 50 and a dozen in Region 1. The Region 1 birds were considered new arrivals, just passing through. White-winged Crossbills were also widely reported, presaging the fall and winter invasion to come, with reports from seven Regions.

MISCELLANEOUS

Two books that should interest New York birders have been published recently. Check out John Peterson's Region 7 report for information about Adirondack Birding: 60 Great Places to Find Birds by John Peterson and Gary Lee. The other book is the anticipated climax to the State's second cataloguing of breeding birds, known as Atlas 2000. The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State, edited by Kevin McGowan and Kimberley Corwin, is a must for any serious student of birds in New York.

BIRD OF THE SEASON (BOTS)

The choice for the BOTS award comes down to just a few species. An immature White Ibis was photographed in Region 9, after initially being spotted in flight and eventually located on land (see p. 355). There are only 12 prior records recognized by NYSARC. The bird was only seen one day. South Polar Skuas were reported on two different dates offshore in Region 10. NYSARC has accepted only two records of this species, the only two reports ever submitted. However, there are a number of other summer reports of South Polar Skua, many of which were assumed to be this species because of the dates of the sightings. The very similar Great Skua is reported to occur only in late fall and winter. However, without rigorous identification, it is tenuous to accept skuas based only upon the date. This summer's bird or birds were photographed and they could make a valuable contribution to the record, if submitted to and accepted by NYSARC. Two extremely rare shorebirds, Red-necked Stint and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, were at Jamaica Bay in Region 10 this summer (see p. 355). There are five accepted records of the former and only two of the latter. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers have occurred numerous times in the State but an adult male in Region 9 this summer must have been a special treat. The fact that he stayed for three days allowed many people to see it. The species is usually a one-day wonder and often not an adult male.

The birds just described are all compelling challengers for the BOTS award this season. Either the Red-necked Stint or the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper on its own would be a fine choice for the award. Occurring together as they did, in the same location, makes it appropriate to choose them as co-recipients of the BOTS award. Their concurrent appearance at Jamaica Bay allowed some birders to observe both species on the same day and from the same spot! This is a truly remarkable confluence of two mega-rarities, and well deserving of the Bird of the Season award.

PHOTO GALLERY

Summer 2008



Figure A. Top: Immature White Ibis at Piermont, Rockland Co., 10 Aug 2008, copyright Alan Wells. Bottom: Red-necked Stint (left) and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (right), Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Queens Co., 3 Aug 2008, photos copyright Ed Coyle.



Figure B. Photos from the Report of the NYS Avian Records Committee for 1995.

Top: Common Ringed Plover, Jamaica Bay WR, Queens Co., 9 Sep 2005, Copyright Martin Lofgren. Middle: Thayer's Gull, Lake Edward, Perinton, Monroe Co., 7 Dec 2005, copyright Dominic Sherony. Bottom: Varied Thrush (left), Cortland, Cortland Co., 8 Jan 2005, copyright Chris & Dianne Tessaglia-Hymes; and Cave Swallow (right), Fairhaven Co. Park, Cayuga Co., 11 Nov 2005, copyright Gregg Dashau.



Figure C. Photos from the Report of the NYS Avian Records Committee for 2005. Top-left: Gyr Falcon, Varick, Seneca Co., 27 Feb, copyright Daniel Lebbin; Great Gray Owl, Cape Vincent, Jefferson Co., 24 Mar, copyright Rex & Birgit Stanford; and Common Eider, Irondequoit Bay Outlet, Monroe Co., 11 Nov, copyright Dominic Sherony.



Figure D. Five Sandwich Terns near Moriches Inlet, Suffolk Co., during Jun 2008. From top: Two adults 8 Jun (ind in alternate plumage banded on right leg); 1st summer 12 Jun; pair 29 Jun (neither banded). Photos copyright S. S. Mitra.

REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER

Mike Morgante

59 Briar Hill Road, Orchard Park, NY 14127

morgm@roadrunner.com

The first half of June was pleasant and warm while the second half of the month was very cool and wet. The average temperature was 67.9°F, 2.1° above average. A total of 4.91" of rain fell, 1.09" above normal. July held mostly fine summer weather although there were more thunderstorms than usual. The average temperature was 71.4°, 0.6° above normal. Rainfall at the Buffalo airport was 2.80", 0.34" below average. However, twice as much fell in some of Buffalo's northern and eastern suburbs. August was cooler and wetter than normal. The average temperature was 68.5°, 0.6° below normal. There was 5.33" of rain, 1.46" above average. Weather data was excerpted from National Weather Service Monthly Weather Summary for Buffalo.

Spring migration continued into early June, as usual. There were several more impressive counts of Semipalmated Sandpipers following the unusually large numbers that were found in late May. A late Willet at Oak Orchard WMA on 3 June was only the second Regional report for June. Common Nighthawks arrived late in May this year and several migrants continued into early June. June migrant warblers included Blackpoll, Wilson's, and Mourning, and flycatchers included Yellow-bellied and Olive-sided.

Ring-necked Ducks and Lesser Scaup lingered at several locations. Batavia WWTP hosted its usual summer contingent of Ruddy Ducks, with no signs of breeding as usual. A wing-tagged Trumpeter Swan continued from May throughout the summer at Clay Pond WMA. It was determined to be a 2006 hatching year male from the Ontario introduction program.

Possible evidence Common Loon breeding in the Region arrived belatedly. Nicki Tiffany indicated that a baby loon was observed with two adults several times throughout the summer from their cottage on a protected cove along Lake Ontario in Orleans County. The first sighting of the dark gray downy juvenile was in mid-June. As there have been no documented nesting attempts in the Region in over 70 years and no photographs were obtained, this should not be considered "hard evidence." However, a few nesting attempts were confirmed on the north shore of Lake Ontario during this decade in the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas work. Five Common Loons at Chautauqua Lake in early June continued the trend of early, non-breeding records from this location.

The heronry at Motor Island in the Niagara River continues to thrive. Bill Watson counted 89 Great Egrets, including young, on 10 July. Great Blue Heron and Black-crowned Night-Herons continue to nest in good numbers at Motor Island as well. Gerry Teal photographed an adult Yellow-crowned Night Heron while kayaking around nearby Strawberry Island on 3 July. While this species is only very rarely seen in the Region, a breeding attempt should be watched for at

these islands or at the Black-crowned Night-Heron colony above Niagara Falls. American Bittern sightings were again limited to Iroquois NWR and vicinity, and the only Least Bittern sightings occurred at Tifft Nature Preserve, where breeding has been documented previously.

Peregrine Falcons and Ospreys returned to the Grand Island area after their inaugural nests there last summer. Four Peregrine chicks were banded by the NYSDEC at the nest platform on the northbound North Grand Island Bridge in early June. Fortunately, the Ospreys picked a safer nest location this year, going for a nest platform at Buckhorn Island SP rather than atop dangerous electrical towers. Peregrines also continued in their traditional Buffalo and Niagara Falls locations and a pair was also seen regularly in Buffalo away from the downtown nesting area. No Merlin nests were reported this summer, ending the string of three consecutive years with nesting on the west side of Buffalo. Bald Eagles continue to thrive.

Two Sandhill Cranes were observed on two occasions at Iroquois NWR this summer, thereby continuing the summer reports in this area. It's likely only a matter of time before an actual breeding attempt is documented.

There were mixed reports on grassland-nesting species. Jeff Reed indicated that Savannah Sparrows and Eastern Meadowlarks were very successful at and near his property in Cattaraugus County and that Bobolinks were gone by 4 July, earlier than usual. However, veteran birders continue to feel that both Savannah Sparrow and Eastern Meadowlark have decreased considerably in recent years, and the U.S.G.S. breeding bird survey results back up that sentiment. Upland Sandpiper breeding records were limited to only Tillman WMA and the town of Colden, both previously documented breeding areas. While plenty of habitat remains for "uppies" and they are likely underreported from areas that are infrequently birded, it is still safe to say that the species has declined considerably in recent decades. A record Regional count of 14 Grasshopper Sparrows was made on 15 June at Tillman WMA by Richard Salembier. While breeding may be doing well at this location, it remains an uncommon species in grasslands throughout the Region. This is likely the first year that Henslow's Sparrow went unreported in the Region. None were detected by the NYSDEC at the William Street field in Lancaster where their presence has held up expansion of a subdivision. However, the developer and landowner reduced survey access after losing a legal challenge to NYSDEC's authority. The site was discovered during the Atlas effort in 2000 and numbers have declined in the last few years. Unless any new sites are found, this may mark the end of the last regular breeding location in the Region.

Among other uncommon and/or declining breeding species, Common Nighthawks were again reported in small numbers in North Buffalo in June and July. Red-headed Woodpecker reports were up compared to recent summers, but still mostly limited to the Lake Erie and Lake Ontario shorelines. For the third summer in a row, no Golden-winged Warblers were confirmed. There was a report of an unseen warbler singing a Golden-winged song in suitable habitat at a previously documented breeding location. However, a hybrid cannot be ruled out. Yellow-throated Warblers nested in the Red House Section of the Allegany

State Park for the fifth year in a row. Prothonotary Warblers were at their regular location at Tonawanda WMA again, and Dave and Vanna Harding reported one from the education center at Oak Orchard WMA in early July. Clay-colored Sparrow was reported from three locations, only one of which was a previously documented breeding area.

Shorebird reports were primarily from Dunkirk Harbor, the Iroquois NWR complex, and Batavia WWTP; however, birder effort seemed reduced compared to recent summers. Plus, the first choice of many Regional birders for shorebirding is outside the Region along the Canadian shore of Lake Erie. The shorebird highlight was once again the number of American Avocet reports. Over the past ten years, avocet sightings have been nearly annual along Lake Erie, mostly from Chautauqua County. There was an early report from late June and then groups of five and four birds during the second week of July, all from Dunkirk Harbor. On 13 July, two Willets were with the avocets, providing more evidence that these birds are adults traveling from their Great Plains breeding grounds toward the mid-Atlantic coast for migration and/or wintering.

The exciting finds at Dunkirk Harbor were not limited to shorebirds. Peter Yoerg spotted an adult Franklin's Gull there on 20 July. It is only the third Regional record for July, and adults in breeding plumage are rarely seen in the Region. Willie D'Anna's repeated checking of the piers in Wilson on Lake Ontario resulted in some interesting finds. An Iceland Gull on 2 June and a Lesser Black-backed Gull on 24 June were believed to be the same birds identified at this location in May. Caspian Terns and Common Terns were seen at the piers on several occasions throughout June, which is the summer month that they'd be least expected without a nearby breeding location. Bonaparte's Gulls, which were likely non-breeding lingerers, were also seen there on several occasions in June.

An unseasonal July movement of Red Crossbills was documented, which was concurrent with similar observations in Ontario and central New York. On 21 July, I was shocked to see a flock of at least a dozen birds briefly alight atop a large spruce tree in my Orchard Park yard and then continue off in a southeasterly direction. That was a short-lived record Regional summer count, as Bruce Chilton witnessed a flock of approximately 50 Red Crossbills near Lake Ontario at Oakland Rural Cemetery in Porter flying east only four days later. Up to six birds were found in August at Palmer's Pond in West Almond, Allegany County, which is the most regular breeding location in the Region. Matt Young identified the birds at this location as Type 1 via sound recording analysis, consistent with the most likely type to occur in summer in central NY. Dick Rosche indicated that he had several Red Crossbills at three undisclosed state forests in Cattaraugus and Chautauqua counties in August as well.

There were no notable passerine migration events in August, and birder effort seemed a little less than usual at that time.

Notable sightings from this summer that were not previously mentioned included: the first summer report of Black Vulture, identified by Tim Lenz at Mayville in July; Sedge Wrens identified in Harmony and Porter during breeding bird survey routes; a female Dickcissel observed by Christopher

Hollister in a field in Farmersville on 31 August; and a Pine Siskin at a feeder in East Aurora.

CONTRIBUTORS

Connie Adams, Tim Baird, Doug Beattie, Jim Berry, Elizabeth Brooks, Bruce Chilton, Willie D'Anna, Elaine Dart, Kurt Fox, David Friedrich, Dave & Vanna Harding, Barb Henderson, Paul Hess, Christopher Hollister, David Junkin, Jim Landau, Lynne Landon, Tim Lenz; Carol Levine, Miley Miller (MMi), Mike Morgante (MMo), Terry Mosher, Dave Neveu, Jim Pawlicki, Betsy Potter, Don Roberson, Richard Rosche, Richard Salembier, Mickey Scillingo, Debbie Sharon, Kate Shulgina, Jeanine Smith, Gerry Teal, Nicki & Paul Tiffany, William Watson, John Welte, David Wheeler, Peter Yoerg, Mike Zebehazy.

ABBREVIATIONS

AISP – Allegany SP, CATT; BeSP – Beaver I SP, ERIE; BuSP – Buckhorn I SP, ERIE; BWWTP – Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant, GENE; ChauL – Chautauqua L, CHAU; CHMUA – Carlton Hill Multiple Use Area, WYOM; DH – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; FMCSP – Four Mile Creek SP, NIAG; FNSP – Fort Niagara SP, NIAG; INWR – Iroquois NWR, GENE/ORLE; LESP – L Erie SP, CHAU; NF – Niagara Falls, NIAG; NR – Niagara R; OOWMA – Oak Orchard WMA, GENE/ORLE; PG – Point Gratiot, CHAU; SPNS – Sinking Ponds Nature Sanctuary, ERIE; Tift NP – Tift Nature Preserve, Buffalo, ERIE; TWMA – Tonawanda WMA, GENE/NIAG.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Mute Swan: 2 Chautauqua CHAU 9 Aug (JS), only report.

Trumpeter Swan: Clay Pond WMA CHAU thru 15 Aug (JB, MMi), wing tagged individual from Ontario program.

Wood Duck: max 22 Gainesville WYOM 4 Jun.

Gadwall: 2, 1 BWWTP 1-21 Jun, 4 Jul, only reports.

Am. Wigeon: BWWTP 1 Jun; 2 Buffalo ERIE 8 Jun; Tift NP 2 Aug; only reports.

Am. Black Duck: Attica WYOM 17 Aug, only report.

Blue-winged Teal: 2, 2 BWWTP 4 Jul, 2 Aug; arr INWR 16 Aug.

N. Shoveler: 3 BWWTP 3 Jun; INWR 3 Jun; only reports.

Green-winged Teal: 2, 1 BWWTP 1, 3 Jun; max 6 INWR 4 Jul (WW); arr 2 Villanova CHAU 27 Aug.

Redhead: 4 TWMA 11 Jun, regular breeding location; BWWTP 21 Jun (WW).

Ring-necked Duck: 2 Tift NP 8, 19 Jun, 18 Aug (WW), continued from May; BWWTP 21 Jun, regular in summer at this location.

Lesser Scaup: 2, 1, 2 BWWTP 3, 21 Jun, 2 Aug (WW); DH 8 Jul (DN); lingerers.

Com. Merganser: 2 BWWTP 3 Jun; Silver Creek CHAU 30 Jun; 1 f + 12 yg AISP (PH); max 50 Sheridan CHAU 9 Aug (DN), regular post-breeding staging area on L Erie.

Red-breasted Merganser: Sheridan CHAU 1, 2 Jun (DN); 2 Wilson NIAG 2 Jun (WD); on the late side for spring.

Ruddy Duck: 27, 35, 84 BWWTP 21 Jun, 4 Jul, 2 Aug (WW), no evidence of breeding.

Com. Loon: Wilson NIAG 2 Jun (WD); 5 ChauL 7 Jun (JB), good count for date; 2 ad + yg Yates ORLE (N&PT) mid-June and thru summer, baby loon observed with adults, *intro*.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 16 TWMA 2 Aug.
Double-crested Cormorant: 56 BWWTP 4 Jul; max 843 BuSP 31 Jul.
Am. Bittern: INWR 3 Jun, 16 Aug; TWMA 4 Jul; traditional locations.
Least Bittern: Tift NP 2, 17 Jul (WW, KS), only reports.
Great Egret: Randolph CATT 1 Jun; 74, 89 Motor I NR 30 Jun, 10 Jul (WW), continued expansion at colony; 3 BWWTP 4, 28 Jul; Alexander GENE 13 Jul; max 92 TWMA 27 Jul, 19 Aug (WW), night roost.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: TWMA 1 Jun; 2 BWWTP 2 Aug; 2 Bethany GENE 16 Aug; only reports away from NR.
YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON: ad Strawberry I NR 3 Jul (GT!), photographed while kayaking near island, very rare.
BLACK VULTURE: Mayville CHAU 14 Jul (TL), first summer report for Region.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: 2 + n BeSP, follows last year return to NR; 4 nests INWR and vicinity; Hanover CHAU 5, 25 Jun; Bush Hill SF CATT 1 Aug, unusual location.
Bald Eagle: BWWTP 1 Jun; max 6, 7 Sheridan CHAU 30 Jun, 12 Aug (DN); 3 imm DH 5 Jul; Busti CHAU 31 Jul; Attica WYOM 6 Aug; Ellicott CHAU 15 Aug; reports away from nesting areas.
Merlin: no reports.
Peregrine Falcon: 4 chicks banded N Grand I Bridge NR 2 Jun (CA), second year nesting at this location; 2 Buffalo ERIE 9 Jun - 23 Jul (KS, PY), away from downtown breeding location; continued nesting in downtown Buffalo and NF; arr PG 26 Aug (DN).
Virginia Rail: FMCSP 2 Jun; 2 Gainesville WYOM 19 Jun; Alexander GENE 22 Jul; Tift NP 2 Aug; only reports; some different locations.
Sora: Alexander GENE 22 Jul; Kiantone CHAU 15 Aug, only reports.
Com. Moorhen: 1 ad + 3 yg Tift NP 2 Jul (WW); Pomfret CHAU 9 Aug (TM); only reports away from INWR and vicinity.
Am. Coot: 4 TWMA 4 Jul; 2 DH 14 Jul; only reports.
SANDHILL CRANE: 2, 2 INWR 7 Jul, 16 Aug (KS, D&VH), irregular summer sightings at/near this location in recent years.

Black-bellied Plover: arr ChauL 11 Aug, only report.
Semipalmated Plover: last 22 OOWMA 3 Jun; arr DH 8 Jul.
AM. AVOCET: arr DH 29 Jun (TL), earliest fall arrival; 5, 4 DH 9, 13 Jul (DN, mob); summer reports along L Erie shore have been nearly annual this decade.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr 2 TWMA 27 Jul.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr DH 21 Jul.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr TWMA 27 Jul; max 9 Villanova CHAU 23 Aug.
Willet: OOWMA 3 Jun (WW), late, only 2nd June record for Region; arr 2 DH 13 Jul (DN); 1-2 DH 25-31 Aug (DN, JS, TM).
Spotted Sandpiper: max 46 BWWTP 4 Jul.
Upland Sandpiper: 7 Tillman WMA ERIE 22 Jun, traditional location; 3 Colden ERIE 25 Jun (JL); 2, 1 Buffalo ERIE 1, 18 Aug (PY), heard migrating at night.
Sanderling: arr DH 21 Jul.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 165 BWWTP 3 Jun (WW); 14 OOWMA 3 Jun; last 47 Alexander GENE 6 Jun (ED); high counts for inland locations; arr DH 21 Jul.
Least Sandpiper: BWWTP, OOWMA 1 Jun; last 4 Wilson NIAG 2 Jun; arr 3 Sheridan CHAU 5 Jul.
Baird's Sandpiper: arr TWMA 30 Aug.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 20 FNPS 24 Aug.
Dunlin: 8 OOWMA 1 Jun; last 8, 4 BWWTP 1, 3 Jun.
Wilson's Snipe: 2 Alexander GENE 3, 6 Jul; 7 Villanova CHAU 10 Aug; only reports.
Jaeger sp.: FNPS 24 Aug (JP), only report.
FRANKLIN'S GULL: DH 20-21 Jul (PY, JS), early, adult in breeding plumage rarely seen in Reg, only third July record.
Bonaparte's Gull: 2 DH 1-2 Jun; 35 Wilson NIAG 2 Jun (WD); 5, 1 BWWTP 1, 3 Jun; Barcelona CHAU 29 Jun; 24 im Wilson NIAG 4 Jul (WD); 4 BWWTP 2 Aug; Allegheny Res CATT 3 Aug; only inland reports.
ICELAND GULL: im Wilson NIAG 2 Jun (WD!), first June record for Reg.
LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: im Wilson NIAG 24 Jun (WD), continued from May.
Caspian Tern: 2 Buffalo NR 8 Jun; 20, 9, 7 Wilson NIAG 9, 23, 30 Jun; Wethersfield WYOM 21 Jun (DJ), unusual location; many reports in Jul and Aug.
Com. Tern: 6, 8 Wilson NIAG 14, 23 Jun (WD); 2 INWR 22 Jun (PY); slightly unusual locations for date; 80 FNPS 24 Aug.
Forster's Tern: arr 2 Wilson NIAG 26 Jul (WD!, BP), only report.

Black Tern: 2 BWWT 1 Jun (MS, DW), unusual location for date; 2 OOWMA 1 Jun; 16, 26 INWR 21 Jun, 4 Jul; BeSP 23-30 Jul (DS); 1, 5 FNSP 24, 30 Aug.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Com. Nighthawk: 3-5 Buffalo ERIE thru Jul (PY, BH); 6 OOWMA 1 Jun (MS, DW); 2 Tonawanda ERIE, Silver Creek CHAU 3 Jun, late migrants; arr Tillman WMA ERIE 20 Aug; only four other late summer migrant reports.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 1, 4 PG 1 Jun, 14 Jul; Yates ORLE 2 Jun (N&PT); Orchard Park ERIE 10-15 Jul (MZ); S. Wales ERIE 15 Jul; 4, 4 Silver Creek CHAU 16 Jul, 29 Aug (DN); 2 juv LESP 29 Jul (JS); 2 Wilson NIAG 9, 11 Aug (BP); 4 FNSP 26 Aug (LL); more reports than the last few summers.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last NF 10 Jun (DR).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last Alexander GENE 6-7 Jun (KF); arr Williamsville ERIE 28 Aug.

Acadian Flycatcher: reported from 10 locations; last 2 Holland ERIE 3 Aug.

Yellow-throated Vireo: CHMUA 22 Jun, non-traditional location.

Philadelphia Vireo: last Buffalo ERIE 1 Jun; arr Williamsville ERIE 28 Aug.

Com. Raven: Colden ERIE 2 Jun; 4 Wethersfield WYOM 25 Jun; 2, 1 Arkwright CHAU 13 Jul, 2 Aug; 2, 1 Bethany GENE 26 Jul, 20 Aug; only reports away from ALLE, CATT.

Purple Martin: 18 Wolcottsville NIAG 19 Jul; 9, 30 Bethany GENE 27 Jul, 5 Aug; good counts for inland locations where now scarce.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: arr Wilson NIAG 29 Aug.

Winter Wren: reported from nine locations.

SEDGE WREN: Harmony CHAU 8 Jun, 1 Jul (JB); Porter NIAG 15, 30 Jun (BP, WD), only reports.

Swainson's Thrush: last Buffalo ERIE 5 Jun; AISP 8 Jun, 4 Jul (PY, PH).

N. Mockingbird: n Machias CATT 16 Jun (RR), unusual location.

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: INWR 1 Jun (MS, DW), heard only, so hybrids cannot be ruled out; no conclusive reports.

Nashville Warbler: arr 3 Charlotte CHAU 27 Aug.

N. Parula: 10 AISP 8 Jun (PY), good showing.

Magnolia Warbler: INWR 5 Jul (JW), unusual location; arr Hunter's Creek P ERIE 15 Aug.

Cape May Warbler: arr Williamsville ERIE 28 Aug.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: reported from five breeding locations; arr Wilson NIAG 30 Aug.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: AISP 21 Jun (TB!), same breeding area as recent summers.

Pine Warbler: reported from five breeding locations.

Prairie Warbler: 2 Pike WYOM 4 Jun, only reports outside ALLE, CATT; max 8 Yorkshire CATT 5 Jul (PY).

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Porter NIAG 24 Aug.

Blackpoll Warbler: last Wilson NIAG 8 Jun (WD), late.

Cerulean Warbler: Deer Lick NP CATT 6 Jul (DN); only report away from INWR or southern CATT.

Black-and-white Warbler: arr Alden ERIE 20 Aug.

Prothonotary Warbler: 1, 2 TWMA 1, 11 Jun (PY, WW), regular recent breeding location; OOWMA 4 Jul (D&VH).

Ovenbird: arr Williamsville ERIE 30 Aug.

N. Waterthrush: arr FNSP 24 Aug.

Louisiana Waterthrush: reported from six locations.

Mourning Warbler: Wilson NIAG 2, 4, 9 Jun (BP, WD), thought to be migrants.

Wilson's Warbler: last Wilson NIAG 2 Jun (BP, WD); arr FMCSP 24 Aug.

Canada Warbler: reported from eight breeding locations; arr FNSP 24 Aug.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: NF 22 Jun (DR); Williamsville ERIE 16, 17 Aug (RS); somewhat unusual locations.

Clay-colored Sparrow: Lancaster ERIE 10-24 Jun (KF, mob), apparently unmated male; Tillman WMA ERIE 14 Jun (CH, DF); 2 Andover ALLE 13 Jun (EB).

Vesper Sparrow: Royalton NIAG 9 Jun; Andover ALLE 13 Jun; 2 Newfane NIAG 15 Jun; 3 CHMUA 22 Jun (ED, DB); max 5 Ashford CATT 5 Jul (PY).

Grasshopper Sparrow: 2 Clarence ERIE 5 Jun; 3 Bethany GENE 9 Jun; max 14 Tillman WMA ERIE 15 Jun (RS), record count for Region; 2 CHMUA 22 Jun.

Henslow's Sparrow: no reports, *intro*.

White-throated Sparrow: SPNS 4 Jun (LH); Wilson NIAG 23 Jun (WD!), very unusual location for date; 8 Attica WYOM 17 Aug (ED, DB).

DICKCISSEL: f Farmersville CATT 31 Aug (CH), well observed in meadow.

Orchard Oriole: im Conewango Swamp WMA CATT 16 Jun (TB); Tillman WMA ERIE 6 Jul (JP, RS); only reports away from L Erie or L Ontario plains.

Baltimore Oriole: max 25 Wilson NIAG 2 Aug (WD, BP).

Red Crossbill: 1, 1 Ward ALLE 1, 29 Jun (EB); 12 Orchard Park ERIE 21 Jul (MMo!); 50 Porter NIAG 25 Jul (BC!), record summer count; 6 W. Almond ALLE 1-17 Aug (JP, mob); present at 3 S.F. areas CATT, CHAU Aug (RR); *intro*.

Pine Siskin: E Aurora ERIE 2 Aug (RR), unusual date, only report.

EXOTICS:

Spotted Dove: Amherst ERIE 21, 22 Aug (CL, GR), likely escape as species has no pattern of vagrancy in North America.

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REGION 2—GENESEE

Kevin C. Griffith

61 Grandview Lane, Rochester, NY 14612

ckgrif@frontiernet.net

June was a warm sunny month. The average temperature was 3.7° above normal at 69.5°F. It ranked as the second warmest in 30 years and in the top 10 in the last 100 years. Precipitation was 1.06" below normal at 2.30", the majority of that falling on the 19th. These conditions may have contributed to the weak showing of the usual late spring migration that carries over into June. This was evident also in the number of birds banded in early June at the BBBO Kaiser/Manitou banding station. July was a pleasant month. A good portion of the days was called "mostly sunny" while only four days fit the "mostly cloudy" designation. The rest were a mix. There were a few scattered days with thunderstorms and violent weather, but for the most part the weather was good for birding. The average temperature of 71.4° was only slightly above normal. Precipitation totaled 0.34" below normal at 2.80". August was cooler and drier than normal. The average temperature of 67.6° was 1.3° below normal. The August precipitation measured 2.97", which was just about a half-inch below normal. Up to this point in the year we were ahead of the yearly precipitation, but the August total dropped us a little behind. August saw a deep trough of low pressure over the Great Lakes during the middle of the month. This provided us with a cool period and the only time during the month when we experienced precipitation. Temperatures during this period averaged below normal. Thunderstorms were present and the Region had periods of large hail.

All in all it turned out to be a pretty productive summer for birding. The lakewatch was manned at Hamlin throughout the summer and was responsible for the bulk of the water bird reports. The Geneseo Airfield accounted for a number of shorebird records. Braddock Bay Bird Observatory began banding in August and contributed numerous records. Since the Atlas ended in 2005 there seem to be fewer reports of nesting birds, yet there were still some interesting sightings.

Waterfowl was pretty typical for the summer. Out of the ordinary were a Brant at Hamlin Beach on 22 July and a Snow Goose at Braddock Bay in June. The effects of the nesting Mute Swans continue to be an issue. Trumpeter Swans were successful nesters along Atlantic Avenue in Wayne County again. Blue-winged Teal and Am. Black Duck continue to be of concern as nesters. The waterfowl flights that often are observed in August were lackluster this year, with White-winged Scoter numbers down considerably. The usual summering Common Loons were reported, but a July Red-throated Loon was a surprise. Pied-billed Grebe reports were lacking; the species continues to decline as a regional nester. There were numerous Red-necked Grebe reports from Hamlin Beach in August. This has not always been the case.

Great Egret numbers were typical. An adult Little Blue Heron in North Greece was the only wader highlight. Black-crowned Night-Herons were noteworthy in their absence. There were single June and July reports with scattered reports of adults in late August. Dave Tetlow reported a Black Vulture, a rare summer sighting, in the town of Hamlin. Dave also spotted a Mississippi Kite on 5 July in North Greece. The August flight of Red-tailed Hawks was generally weak this year. A Golden Eagle was spotted in June during a late spring migration flight on 6 June. Merlins nested again in the city of Rochester, and the Peregrine Falcon pair on Kodak Tower was successful once again downtown.

Nearly all Common Moorhens were located away from the lakeshore, where they now seem to be absent. This is particularly true of the marsh areas west of the Genesee River where they were once quite common. The Sandhill Crane pair at Carncross Road in Wayne County hatched two young this year, but only one was being seen by the end of June, and there were few sightings of any of the birds later in the season. Even though shorebird habitat was at a premium, there were some noteworthy reports. June sightings included a record late spring Dunlin as well as Willet late in the month and Red Knot early in the month. Bill Symonds observed three Am. Avocets land on the beach at Hamlin. Others subsequently observed them at that location. August highlights included 5 Willets at Hamlin Beach and a Red-necked Phalarope found by Jim Kimball at the unlikely location of the Geneseo Airfield. There were few Ruddy Turnstone reports, and the seasonal max for Sanderling was a paltry 23. The fact that there have been no Wilson's Phalarope reports this year is of interest. With the continued coverage at Hamlin Beach the usual jaeger sightings occurred in August with Long-tailed being reported every year now and a record early sighting for this species on 12 Aug by William Symonds and Robert Spahn. The only summer gull sightings of real interest were two Lesser Black-backed

reports in June. Great Black-backed Gull numbers were down significantly. This was true historically, but in recent years there have been growing numbers of this species in summer. Caspian Tern numbers appeared to be down slightly, but Common Terns numbers were good and consistent. Single reports of Black Tern in June and July continue to chronicle the demise of that species in the Region.

There were good reports of both cuckoo species. There was an early June report of 30+ Common Nighthawks at Manitou in June, the remnant of the large numbers there in late May, but there were no July sightings and only a single report from August. Chimney Swifts had begun to assemble in fairly large numbers by the end of August. Red-headed Woodpeckers were well reported from Hamlin Beach and Conesus. Three Olive-sided Flycatcher reports of four individuals during the season were a pleasant change from recent years. A July Yellow-bellied Flycatcher banded on 29 July at Manitou was out of character for the Region. Acadian Flycatchers continue to do well. Some observers felt that Least Flycatcher was down slightly. Eastern Kingbird numbers were good.

Common Raven continues to expand in the Region, with a report from the town of Sweden as well as one in Penfield. There were a good number of reports of Cliff Swallow nestings from around the Region. There seems to be a slight increase. Sedge Wrens in the Braddock Bay Wildlife Management area were the first for the year for the Region. The usual late spring migration of thrushes in early June never materialized this year. Eastern Bluebird numbers continued to increase along the west lakeshore. The usual continuation of migrant warblers into June was typical. Of note was a Nashville Warbler banded at Manitou on 11 July. While this species does nest in the Region, a bird near the lakeshore in July is out of the ordinary. Prairie Warblers were well reported this year. August migrant warbler numbers were low, but species totals were okay. Numbers of young Yellow Warblers were found in fairly large concentrations along the west lakeshore from late July into August, a time when they typically depart in large numbers. A Yellow-breasted Chat was heard on only a single day along Norway Road in Orleans County for the only July report.

The *Emberizidae* family was a mixed bag this season. Clay-colored Sparrow continued its presence as a nester in the Region. Henslow's Sparrow went unreported. Continuing a recent trend, White-crowned Sparrows were found in June. Dark-eyed Juncos breed regularly in the higher elevations of the Region and even in small patches of suitable habitat elsewhere, but a pair nesting and feeding young in the yard of Bob and Sandy Mauceli was unusual. With the reports of crossbills around the state this summer, it seemed only a matter of time before they were reported in Region 2. There were three separate sightings in August. The June Pine Siskin was also a good find, though some years after substantial late spring migrations some do stay to nest.

The June species total was significantly different from the 10-year average at 178. July's total was 169, nine species above the 10-year average. August totaled 179 species which was slightly above the average. The year's total was just about normal at 273 species.

CONTRIBUTORS

Jessie Barry, Bob Beal, Steven Benedict, Barry Bermudez, John Boettcher, Lynn Braband, Elizabeth Brooks (BBBO), Michael Burdick, Bruce & Mary Ann Cady, Carolyn Cass, Gary Chapin, Roger Clark, Kelly Close, Doug Daniels, Kenny Frisch, Andrew Garland, Jay Greenberg, Kevin Griffith & Colleen Dox-Griffith, Judy Gurley, Andy Guthrie, Helen Haller, David & Vanna Harding, Kim Hartquist, Michael Harvey, Carolyn Jacobs, Jim Kimball, Leona Lauster, Timothy Lenz, Greg Lawrence, Fred & Holly Lawrence, Jerry Lazarczyk, Bill Maier, Robert Marcotte, Don Marsh, Bob & Sandy Mauceli, Robert & Chita McKinney, Matt Medler, Ferne Merrill, Richard O'Hara, Norma Platt, Gail Price, David Prill, RBA Field Trips, Ken Rosenberg, Jennifer Rycenga, Chuck Schleigh, Mickey Scilingo, Dominic Sherony, Joe Slattery, John Slowik, Tom Smith, Robert & Susan Spahn, Carol Stokes-Cawley, Kimberly Sucky, William Symonds, Georgena Terry, Michael Tetlow, David Tetlow, Nicki & Paul Tiffany, Matt Thompson, Don & Donna Traver, Mike Wasilco, Chris Wood, Martha Zettel.

ABBREVIATIONS

b – banded; BB – Braddock Bay, MONR; BBBO – Braddock Bay Bird Observatory; BR – Lake Ontario off of Broadway Road, T Huron, WAYN; C – Conesus LIVI; CA – T Canadice, ONTA; G – T Greece, MONR; GE – T Geneseo, LIVI; H – T Hamlin, MONR; HB – Hamlin Beach State Park, MONR; HP – Hogan Pt, T Greece; HS – Huckleberry Swamp, WAYN; I – T Irondequoit, MONR; K – T Kendall, ORLE; LW – Letchworth State Park, LIVI, WYOM; M – Manitou Beach area, MONR; MAC – Montezuma Audubon Center, WAYN; NO – Norway Road, T Murray, ORLE; OB – Ontario Beach, Charlotte, MONR; PA – T Parma, MONR; PE – T Perinton, MONR; R – C Rochester, MONR; S – T Savannah, WAYN; TM – Taylor Marsh, T Honeoye, ONTA; W – T of Webster, MONR; WL – West Lakeshore, MONR, ORLE.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: 1 BB 24 Jun (DT, KG, GL).
Brant: 1 HB 22 Jul (WS).
Trumpeter Swan: 2ad, 2yg WAYN 4, 11 Jun; max 8 WAYN 7 Jul; 5 MAC 10 Jul; 4 WAYN 27 Jul.
Blue-winged Teal: 2 PE 4 Jun; 1 HB 27 Jun.
Redhead: 1 C 19 Jul.
Lesser Scaup: 1 BB 3 Jun; 2 HB 29 Jul; arr 2 HB 15 Aug (WS), record early.
White-winged Scoter: last HB 11 Jun; arr HB 14 Aug.
Black Scoter: last 2 HB 1 Jun.
Bufflehead: 1 fem HB 10 Jul.
Long-tailed Duck: last HB 9 Jun.

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Ruddy Duck: 1 G 3 Jul.

Red-throated Loon: max 12 HB 1 Jun; 1 HB 18 Jun; 1 HB 29 Jul (WS).

Com. Loon: max 25 HB 1 Jun; 1 Hemlock Lake 29 Jun.

Red-necked Grebe: arr 1 HB 28 Jul (WS); 1 HB 1 Aug (WS); 2 HB 17 Aug (WS), 1 HB 25 Aug (DS, RS); 5 HB 26 Aug (WS); 2 BR 31 Aug (TL).

Double-crested Cormorant: max 450 BR 31 Aug (TL).

Am. Bittern: 1 GE 28 Jul.

Least Bittern: max 2 TM 4 Jun (LB).

LITTLE BLUE HERON: 1ad G 18 Jul (DT).

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Black-crowned Night-Heron: 1 G 6 Jun; 1 BB 29 Jul.
BLACK VULTURE: 1 H 21 Jul (DT).

HAWKS – ALCIDS

MISSISSIPPI KITE: 1 G 5 Jun (DT).
Bald Eagle: max 11 G 6 Jun; 8 BB 18 Aug; 6 BR 31 Aug.
N. Goshawk: 1 Brighton, MONR 27 Aug.
Broad-winged Hawk: max 251 G 6 Jun; 57 BB 18 Aug.
Red-tailed Hawk: max 634 BB 18 Aug.
Golden Eagle: 1 imm G 6 Jun (KG).
Am. Kestrel: max 22 WL 22 Jul.
Merlin: 1 R 23 Jun (LB); 1 R 10 Jul (LB).
Com. Moorhen: 1 TM 4 Jun; 1 S 5 Aug.
Sandhill Crane: 2 S 1-30 Jun; 1 S 5 Jul.
Black-bellied Plover: arr HB 10 Aug.
Am. Golden-Plover: arr GE 23 Aug.
Semipalmated Plover: last OB 5 Jun; arr 2 GE 28 Jul; 2 HB 28 Jul.
Killdeer: max 200+ GE 11, 19 Aug (JK).
AMERICAN AVOCET: 3 HB 13 Jul (WS, sev).
Greater Yellowlegs: last S 1 Jun; arr 7 GE 28 Jul.
Lesser Yellowlegs: last BB 6 Jun; arr G 6 Jul.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr HS 9 Jul.
Willet: 1 HB 25 Jun (WS); 1 G 23 Jul (DT); max 5 HB 24 Aug (WS, *et al.*).
Upland Sandpiper: max 7 GE 28 Jul.
Whimbrel: arr HB 15 Jul (RS, WS); 1 HB 28 Jul (WS); 1 G 17 Aug (JBa, CW); 3 HB 28 Aug (WS, R&SS); 1 HB 31 Aug (WS, DT).
Ruddy Turnstone: arr HB 11 Aug.
Red Knot: 1 Summerville Pier, I 3-5 Jun, (RS, sev).
Sanderling: arr HB 15 Jul; max 23 HB 26 Aug.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: last OB 5 Jun; arr OB 17 Jul.
Least Sandpiper: arr 1 HB 27 Jun.
White-rumped Sandpiper: arr 2 GE 21 Aug.
Baird's Sandpiper: arr OB 11 Aug.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr GE 6 Aug.
Dunlin: last 4 HB 17 Jun (WS), record late; arr GE 23 Aug.
Stilt Sandpiper: arr 8 GE 21 Aug.
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 2 OB 17 Jul.
Red-necked Phalarope: arr 1 GE 25 Aug (JK).
phalarope sp: 2 HB 29 Aug (RS).
Parasitic Jaeger: arr BR 31 Aug (TL); HB 31 Aug (WS, RC, DT).
Long-tailed Jaeger: arr HB 12 Aug (WS, RS), record early; 2 HB 25 Aug (DS, R&SS).
Bonaparte's Gull: max 132 HB 27 Jul.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 2 OB 5 Jun (RS); 1 juv I 29 Aug (JBa, CW); 1 ad HB 22 Aug (WS).
Caspian Tern: max 74 WL 27 Jul.
Com. Tern: max 36 HB 25 Aug.
Forster's Tern: 2 HB 1 Jun;
Black Tern: 1 HB 17 Jun; 1 HB 21 Jul; 1 MAC 9 Aug (DM); 5 BR 31 Aug (TL).

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Com. Nighthawk: max 30+ M 2 Jun; last R 15 Jun; arr T Webster, MONR 6 Aug (FM).
Chimney Swift: max 72 T York, LIVI 11 Aug.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1 G 5 June (RMA); arr 1 G 29 Jul (RMA); 2 BR 31 Aug (TL).
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max 6b M, 1, 6 Jun; last M 7 Jun; 1b M 29 Jul (R&CMc).
Acadian Flycatcher: max 9, 8 LW 1, 20 Jun.
Philadelphia Vireo: last 1 HS 3 Jun.
Com. Raven: 2 T Sweden, MONR 29 Jul (DT); 1 T Penfield, MONR ? Aug (DT).
Cliff Swallow: max 25 HB 29 Aug.
Sedge Wren: 2-3 HP 10-31 Jul (DT), first for the year, rare nester.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: last 1 HS 8 Jun.
Swainson's Thrush: last 2b M 6 Jun.
Am. Pipit: last 1 HB 9 Jun.

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: 1 NO 11, 22 Jul (KG); 1 HB 28 Aug (R&SS).
"Lawrence's" Warbler: 1 LW 20 Jun (JR).
Tennessee Warbler: last 4b M 1 Jun; arr G, H 25 Aug.
Nashville Warbler: 1b M 11 Jul (R&CMc).
N. Parula: last 1 BB 6 Jun; arr PE 21 Aug.
Magnolia Warbler: max 38 G 30 Aug.
Cape May Warbler: arr G 15 Aug.
Prairie Warbler: 1 CA 7 Jun; 1 Springwater, LIVI 12 Jun; 2 CA 15 Jun; 1 LW 20 Jun.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr M, HB 28 Aug.
Blackpoll Warbler: last 1b M 9 Jun; arr G 25 Aug.
Hooded Warbler: max 62 LW 1 Jun (RBA).
Wilson's Warbler: last 1b M 12 Jun; arr M 13 Aug.
Canada Warbler: arr M 13 Aug.
Yellow-breasted Chat: 1 NO 2 Jul (KG).

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Clay-colored Sparrow: 1 H 7-30 Jun; 1-2 K 1-30 Jun; 1 GE 1-30 Jun; 1 CA 7 Jun; 1-2 H, K 1-14 Jul.

White-crowned Sparrow: 1 b M 3 Jun; 2 T Barre, ORLE 25 Jun.
Dark-eyed Junco: 2 ad feeding yg Pittsford, MONR 14-15 Aug (R&SM).
Bobolink: max 200 T York, LIVI 19 Aug.
E. Meadowlark: max 50+ T Penfield, MONR 13 Aug (GP).

Red Crossbill: 3 HP 1 Aug (DT); 2 juv HB 13 Aug (RS); 1 juv G 28 Aug (KG).
Pine Siskin: 1 HB 5 Jun; 1 HB 3 Aug; 2 HB 5 Aug; 2 G 28 Aug.
Evening Grosbeak: 3 South Conesus, LIVI 3 Aug (KC).

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REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

Mark Chao

124 Simsbury Drive, Ithaca, NY 14850
markchao@imt.org

The summer period began with unusually warm and dry weather in Region 3. The mean temperature for June in Ithaca at 67°F was 3° higher than usual, while total precipitation of 0.73" was about one-fifth of the historical average for the month. July temperatures and precipitation almost perfectly matched historical averages. A dry spell came again in August, with total monthly precipitation 1.44", about 43% of the historical mean. August was also cool, with an average temperature of 64° F, 3° below the norm.

Dabbling ducks were notably numerous and diverse at the Main Pool at Montezuma NWR in August, perhaps in part because of favorable weather conditions for early migration and surely also because of the creation of abundant habitat through managed flooding for weed control. On 11 August, Chris Wood and Jessie Barry noted record seasonal highs for American Black Duck, Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, and Blue-winged Teal. Separately, Chris also logged a record American Wigeon count, and Marshall Iliff found a remarkable 3100 Mallards, another new summer high. In addition, Gary Chapin found a Eurasian Wigeon here on 30 August.

In early June, Chris found a female Long-tailed Duck at MNWR. In mid-August, about two months before expected first fall arrival, several birders again noted a female Long-tailed Duck, this time at Aurora Bay. Multiple observers noted a Greater White-fronted Goose at MNWR from early July through August. This bird's presence long before the usual window of fall migration, as well as at least one documented instance of its tolerance of close approach by vehicles, raises doubts whether the goose was wild. Aside from the anatids, one other water bird appeared out of season at the refuge—an Eared Grebe in breeding plumage, found by Bob McGuire on 12 June.

Janet Akin, Doug Daniels, and many others saw a Snowy Egret at the Casella Wetlands near Flint from 5 to 7 June. Bill McAneny reported a Little Blue Heron flying over downtown Ithaca on 9 June. Bill noted size, shape, and color consistent with this species, but regrettably, photographic documentation or corroborating observations desirable for confirming this rare species are not available. On 16 July, Theresa Orzeck found a Cattle Egret in her pasture outside Trumansburg. Multiple observers saw and photographed this bird the following day.

Birders turned up no very unusual raptor sightings this season, though again two Merlins apparently attempted to breed in downtown Ithaca. No one has reported definitive information on fledging success or failure this year. This marks at least the fourth consecutive year that Merlins have attempted to breed in Ithaca and/or neighboring Cayuga Heights.

Common Moorhens evidently continued their recent trend of breeding success at MNWR, with Chris Wood reporting a summer-record 108 on 29 July. Two Sandhill Cranes were reported to eBird this summer in the southern portions of the Montezuma Wetlands Complex; these birds were possibly members of the family that bred just across the Wayne/Seneca county line in Region 2.

Managed flooding at MNWR, while good for waterfowl, meant limited habitat for shorebirds. Numbers and diversity were generally low, with no extreme rarities noted. The main highlight was a flock of five Hudsonian Godwits, which Mike Powers found and photographed on 28 August. Bob McGuire found two Buff-breasted Sandpipers together at MNWR's Knox-Marcellus Marsh on 31 August. In addition, multiple observers found and photographed Long-billed Dowitchers around the MNWR Visitor Center, with Ryan Douglas reporting 10 on 15 August, tying the seasonal high. At this same location, Dave Nutter and Paul Hurtado found two Wilson's Phalaropes on 18 August. Dave also found three Red-necked Phalaropes, a high for the season, later that day further north on MNWR's Main Pool. Upland Sandpipers spent the summer as usual at the Empire State Farm Days fairgrounds in Seneca Falls, but unlike last year, no reports of multiple fledglings were submitted to eBird or other public sources.

Laughing Gull, always a rare find upstate, appeared twice in the Region this summer. Chris Wood had the first sighting, at Myers Park in Lansing on 2 June. Jay McGowan had the second on 13 August at Stewart Park in Ithaca, where many others saw the bird over the following few days. Other notable larid records included a new season-high nine Bonaparte's Gulls persisting at the Union Springs Marina until at least June 7, another Bonaparte's Gull at Myers Park on 7 June, and a Lesser Black-backed Gull first found by Kevin McGowan on 24 July, then present again on 16 August, at Cornell University's compost facility on Stevenson Road in Dryden.

The season yielded no unexpected records of owls or nightjars, though Lee Ann van Leer did find a family group of five Eastern Screech-Owls in the Ithaca City Cemetery on 23 June, a high point count for recent summers. Rhea Garen found one Red-headed Woodpecker in Aurora on 5 July.

A few passerines made unusual appearances in June and July. One or more Ruby-crowned Kinglets were seen by Matt Young on 5 June and by Paul Hurtado on 7 July at Summer Hill State Forest in Cayuga County. Breeding activity is certainly plausible, but was not confirmed. Ryan Douglas found a lone Northern Parula in Sapsucker Woods on 8 July. On 1 June, Mike Harvey saw and photographed a Yellow-breasted Chat at the Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve.

North winds in late August brought a rich variety of migrant warblers and other songbirds, highlighted by a Golden-winged Warbler found by Ryan Douglas on 27 August on Bomax Drive in Lansing. The emberizids of the season were a singing Henslow's Sparrow found by Kevin Griffith in the Finger Lakes National Forest on 1 July, and one Clay-colored Sparrow, found by Gary Chapin by the MNWR Visitor Center on 9 August.

Montezuma NWR hosted record-shattering flocks of icterids this summer. Tim Lenz counted 1200 Bobolinks along the Wildlife Drive on 19 August. Counting flocks for a minute at a time, Chris Wood and Jessie Barry tallied 235,000 Red-winged Blackbirds, with a peak flow of 45,000 per minute, and 60,000 Common Grackles, with peak flow of 17,000 per minute, at MNWR on 11 August. Of course it is unclear whether these prodigious totals really reflect increased numbers of birds or whether they result from a different level of observer effort. Away from MNWR, Geo Kloppel made another notable find on 27 June—at least two family groups of Orchard Orioles, an uncommon local breeder, together near Lick Brook in Ithaca, totaling at least seven birds, another season high.

Both species of crossbill made fairly frequent appearances in and around Summer Hill State Forest in late July and August, with at least four White-winged Crossbills confirmed at least twice and two Red Crossbills seen and heard once. Dave Nutter and others also found a female Evening Grosbeak in this area on 2 August. Mickey Scilingo found the season's only Pine Siskin at his thistle feeder on Yellow Barn Hill in Dryden on 6 July.

CONTRIBUTORS

Janet Akin, Paul Anderson, Bill Baker, Eric Banford, Jessie Barry, Joan Bartlett, Fred Bertram, Shawn Billerman, Fritzie Blizzard, Jean Bub, Mark Chao, Gary Chapin, Benjamin Clock, Linda Clougherty, Doug Daniels, Susan Danskin, Nancy Dickinson, Ryan Douglas, Bill Evans, Steve Fast, Pedro Fernandes, Annette Finney, Jeremy Gardner, Rhea Garen, John Greenly, John & Sue Gregoire, Kevin Griffith, Bob Guthrie, Meena Haribal, Mike Harvey, Anne Havelin, Asher Hockett, Jeff Holbrook, Paul Hurtado, Marshall Iliff, Lyn Jacobs, Tom Johnson, Michael Jordan, Anne Marie Johnson, Stefan Karkuff, D. M. Kennedy, Geo Kloppel, J. Gary Kohlenberg, Leona Lauster, Jerry Lazarczyk, Tim Lenz, Don Marsh, Bill McAneny, Elaina McCartney, Jay McGowan, Kevin McGowan, Cathy McGrath, Bob McGuire, Nari Mistry, Ann Mitchell, David Nicosia, Dave Nutter, Theresa Orzeck, Sydney Penner, Tina

Phillips, Mike Powers, Raghuram Ramanujan, Marie Read, Ken Rosenberg, Charles Rouse, Dave Russell, Ellen Sears, Marty Schlabach, Carol Schmitt, Mickey Scilingo, Glenn Seeholzer, Dan Sheldon, Joseph Slattery, Nick Sly, Carl Steckler, David F. Suggs, Chris Tessaglia-Hymes, Lee Ann van Leer, Brad Walker, Mitch Walters, Bill Watson, Watt & Page Webb, Chris Wiley, Mary Winston, Christopher L. Wood, Matt Young.

ABBREVIATIONS

MNWR – Montezuma NWR; MWC – Montezuma Wetlands Complex; Myers – Myers Park, Lansing; SW – Sapsucker Woods; StP – Stewart Park, Ithaca.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: 1 MNWR 23 Aug (TJ, TL, CWi, SB, NS), early.

EURASIAN WIGEON: 1 MNWR 30 Aug (GC), rare.

Am. Wigeon: max 18 MNWR 29 Jul (CLW et al.), high.

Am. Black Duck: max 46 MNWR 11 Aug (CLW, JesB), high.

Mallard: max 3100 MNWR 15 Aug (MI), high.

Blue-winged Teal: max 89 MNWR 11 Aug (CLW, JesB), high.

N. Shoveler: max 16 MNWR 11 Aug (CLW, JesB), high.

N. Pintail: max 23 MNWR 11 Aug (CLW, JesB), high.

Ring-necked Duck: 2 arr MNWR 11 Aug (CLW, JesB), early.

LONG-TAILED DUCK: 1 MNWR 7 Jun (CLW, TL, CWi), late; 1 Aurora Bay 15-16 Aug, early.

Bufflehead: arr Seneca Lake 31 Aug.

Pied-billed Grebe: 100 MNWR 23 Aug (TL), high.

EARED GREBE: 1 MNWR 12 June (BMcG).

SNOWY EGRET: 1 Casella Wetlands (Ontario) 5-7 June (JA, DD, FB, *et al.*).

CATTLE EGRET: 1 Town of Covert, 16 Jul (TO).

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Merlin: 2 downtown Ithaca 19 Jun (DS, PH), probable breeding, courtship feeding observed.

Peregrine Falcon: arr MNWR 23 Aug.

Com. Moorhen: 108 MNWR 29 Jul (CLW), high; 1 Farley's Point 7 Jun (DFS), unusual location.

Sandhill Crane: 4 (2 ad, 2 colts) MWC 3 Jun (GK).

Black-bellied Plover: arr MNWR 6 Aug.

Semipalmated Plover: arr MNWR 6 Aug.

The Kingbird 2008 December; 58 (4)

Greater Yellowlegs: arr MNWR 11 Jul.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr MNWR 11 Jul.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT: 5 MNWR 28 Aug (MP), only report.

Ruddy Turnstone: arr Myers 11 Aug.

Sanderling: arr Myers 19 Aug.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr MNWR 14 Jul.

Least Sandpiper: arr MNWR 5 Jul.

White-rumped Sandpiper: 1 MNWR 9 Aug (RD), only report, low.

Baird's Sandpiper: arr MNWR 21 Aug; max 2 MNWR 31 Aug (TJ et al), low.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr MNWR 19 Jul.

Stilt Sandpiper: arr MNWR 19 Jul; max 12 MNWR 23 Aug (DN).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 2 MNWR 31 Aug (BMcG), only report.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr George Road wetland TOMP 20 Jul.

Long-billed Dowitcher: arr MNWR 3 Aug; max 10 MNWR 15 Aug (RD), high.

Wilson's Phalarope: 2 MNWR 18 Aug (DN, PH), only report.

Red-necked Phalarope: arr Myers 13 Aug (JM); max 3 MNWR 18 Aug (DN).

LAUGHING GULL: 1 Myers 2 Jun (CLW), 1 StP 13-16 Jun (JM *et al.*).

Bonaparte's Gull: last and max 9 Union Springs marina 7 Jun (CLW, TL); last Myers 7 Jun.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Stevenson Road, Dryden 24 Jul (KM) and 16 Aug (PH).

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

E. Screech-Owl: max 5 Ithaca City Cemetery 23 Jun (LAvL), high.

Com. Nighthawk: arr Allan Treman St. Marine Pk 12 Aug.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 1 Aurora 5 Jul (RG).

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr 1 Durland Preserve TOMP 24 Aug (SF).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr 1 Beam Hill TOMP 15 Aug.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr 1 SW 28 Aug.

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET: 1 Summer Hill SF 5 Jun, 7 Jul (MY, PH), possible breeding unconfirmed.

Swainson's Thrush: arr 20 Aug Etna.

WARBLERS

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER: 1 Bomax Drive TOMP 27 Aug (RD), only report.

Tennessee Warbler: arr Mundy Wildflower Garden TOMP 30 Aug.

N. Parula: 1 SW 8 Jul (RD), only summer report; arr 1 SW 30 Aug.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr 1 SW 27 Aug.

Wilson's Warbler: arr 2 SW 2 Aug, early.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: 1 Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve 1-2 June (MH *et al.*).

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: 1 MNWR 9 Aug (GC).

Grasshopper Sparrow: max 2 over all counties in Region (eBird), low.

HENSLOW'S SPARROW: 1 Finger Lakes NF 1 Jul (KG).

Bobolink: max 1200 MNWR 19 Aug (TL), high.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 235,000 MNWR 11 Aug (CLW, JesB), high.

Com. Grackle: max 60,000 MNWR 11 Aug (CLW, JesB), high.

Orchard Oriole: max 7 Lick Brook (Tompkins) 27 Jun (GK), high.

RED CROSSBILL: 2 Summerhill SF 9 Aug (JGK), 1 Summer Hill SF 13 Aug (PH).

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL: arr 1 Summerhill SF 27 Jul (SF); max 4 Summer Hill SF 31 Jul and 13 Aug (TL, MI, PH), high.

PINE SISKIN: 1 Yellow Barn Hill TOMP 6 Jul (MScil), only report.

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REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

Spencer Hunt

493 Glenmary Drive, Owego NY 13827

shunt493@yahoo.com

The weather for the season started out above normal for temperature. The first half of June had five days in a row averaging close to 16° above normal and the month had 20 total days of above normal temperatures. June 2008 ended up as having the fourth highest monthly average temperature since 1951. July was only slightly above normal for temperature. There were 11 days below normal and 17 days above normal with only five days more than five degrees different from the normal. August was the opposite of July, with 21 days below normal and nine above normal. Only three days were more than 5° from normal. Precipitation for the period was only 0.55" below normal and fairly even throughout, with June having 3.06", July 4.46", and August 3.67". Except for the beginning of June, summer 2008 was fairly close to an average year. Nesting this year should not have seen any problem due to weather.

The first Common Loon in five years was reported on Otsego Lake, Otsego Co. in June. Several Great Egrets were reported during the season throughout the Region. The only other uncommon Ardeidae reported was American Bittern by Mark Tanis in Chenango Co.

Multiple observations of Osprey were an improvement over the single sighting last year. Bald Eagles with young in nests were reported in Tioga and Chenango Counties. Last year the lone Northern Goshawk sighting was of a nesting bird in Treadwell, Delaware Co. Apparently the same bird tried nesting this year but abandoned the nest. American Kestrel numbers are down for the third year with limited reports. A year after The Naturalists' Club of Broome County found 22 in northern Broome Co., they were only able to find six this year. Merlins are becoming more commonly reported. This year Otsego Co. was the place to be. Besides single individuals in other places in the county, a pair took up residence in Cooperstown and another pair fledged three young in a park in Oneonta. The adult female in Oneonta was banded, so maybe in the future it may be determined if these are the same Merlins moving around the Region from year to year. The Peregrine Falcons in Binghamton fledged young, with as many as four reported in the nest at one time.

For the second year shorebird reports seemed to be on the upswing, with the variety about equal to previous years. Killdeer, the most common species, seemed to be doing especially well.

Olive-sided Flycatcher and Acadian Flycatcher were reported for the second year in a row. Reports of Eastern Wood Pewee were better than in previous years and without any comments on scarcity as seen in the past.

The Pharsalia area in Chenango Co. is a good site to find Swainson's Thrushes and both of the crossbills. Warblers can be found in good numbers as evidenced by many of the maximum numbers in the record that were seen by Matt Young on 15 June. Another indicator of Pharsalia resembling more northern habitats was Matt's finding a pair of Evening Grosbeaks that possibly were nesting. Additionally, Matt provided comments and notes on crossbills in the area: "In June, a good cone crop on spruce, larch, and white and red pine developed. In response to the cone crop, in July and August Type 1 Red Crossbills were again found singing in the townships of German, Otselic, Pharsalia, and Truxton. The highest number of breeding Red Crossbills was again recorded from the Pharsalia area. Also of note, White-winged Crossbills invaded the area in July and were heard singing on territory in the townships of Preble, Truxton, Pharsalia, Otselic, and Pitcher."

A Clay-colored Sparrow was observed on two days in June in the Town of Springfield, Otsego Co.

A bird notably missing from the Region was the Greater Yellowlegs. Other scarce birds included: American Black Duck, American Woodcock, and Purple Martin. While Common Nighthawk was still seen in low numbers of individuals, there were more reports than in previous years. Chimney Swift reports continue to be extremely limited. Marie Petuh of Broome Co. spent seven evenings in August observing known nesting sites with few swifts to report, exclaiming: "not like the numbers of past years." Jeannette Baldwin in

Tioga Co. reported: "no Chimney Swifts after having them nest in our silo for 57 years." And Don Windsor in Chenango Co. commented: "this is the first summer in 42 years that I have not seen any in the City of Norwich."

There were 161 species reported for the season, five more than last year.

CONTRIBUTORS

Cutler & Jeannette Baldwin, Sandy Bright, Germaine Connolly, Pete Fenner; Becky Gretton, Steve Hall (SH), Dorian Huneke, Spencer Hunt, Bill Kuk, Andy Mason, Jeffrey Murray, Naturalist's Club of Broome County (NCBC), Bob Pantle, Marie Petuh, Tom Salo, Mark Tanis, Tioga Bird Club (TBC), Dan Watkins, Don & Joanne Weber, Jon Weeks, Don Windsor, Rich Youket, Matt Young.

ABBREVIATIONS

BPd – Boland Pond, BROO; BPdSF – Basswood Pond State Forest, CHEN; BU – Binghamton University Nature Preserve, BROO; CL – Candarago Lake, OTSE; CR – Chenango River; PIBA – Pharsalia Important Bird Area, CHEN.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Black Duck: few CL OTSE 28 Aug, only report.

Com. Loon: Otsego Lake OTSE 6 Jun, only report.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 8 CR BROO 27 Aug.

Am. Bittern: T Pitcher CHEN 3 Jun, only report.

Great Egret: Sherburne CHEN 13 JUN; T Union BROO 10 Jul; Whitney Point BROO thru Aug (mob); T Union BROO 31 Aug.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: mob thru, numbers up.

Bald Eagle: 2 ad, 2 y T Oxford CHEN Jun; 2 ad, y Hiawatha Island TIOG 15 Jun.

N. Goshawk: Treadwell DELA 16 Jun; PIBA CHEN 15 Jun; only reports.

Am. Kestrel: max 6 n BROO, numbers down.

MERLIN: 2 ad Cooperstown OTSE thru Jun; 2 ad, 3 y Oneonta OTSE thru (SB), ad fem banded; 3 other reports.

Peregrine Falcon: FY Bing BROO 19 Jun.

Virginia Rail: T Vestal BROO 11 Jun, only report.

Com. Moorhen: ad, juv T Oxford CHEN 16 Aug; BPd BROO thru.

Killdeer: max 47+ T Chenango BROO 27 Jul, doing well.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 6 Dorchester Pk BROO 29 Aug.

Solitary Sandpiper: 2 T German CHEN 16 Jul; 2 T Barker BROO 27 Aug; only reports.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 2 T Barker BROO 27, 30 Aug, only report.

Least Sandpiper: max 9 Tri-Cities Airport BROO 24 Jul; 8 T Barker BROO 26 Aug.

Baird's Sandpiper: 2 T Barker BROO 26 Aug, only report.

Wilson's Snipe: T Burlington OTSE 2 Jun, only report.

Am. Woodcock: max 4 Stamford DELA 5 Jul, only report.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Com. Nighthawk: max 7 T Vestal BROO 31 Aug; eight other reports; reports up.

Chimney Swift: max 15 Johnson City BROO 17 Aug (MP); few reports, numbers are seriously down.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: T Otsego OTSE 24 Aug (JM); Franklin Mt Hawk Watch OTSE 27 Aug (SH); only reports.

E. Wood-Pewee: mob; numbers are up.

Acadian Flycatcher: T Nanticoke BROO 8 Jun (JW).
Purple Martin: max 12+ T Tioga TIOG 9 Jul; few reports.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: max 8 T Vestal BROO 2 Jul; only 2 other reports.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: PIBA CHEN 15 Jun; ad, y T German CHEN 28 Jun, only reports.
Swainson's Thrush: 2 PIBA CHEN 15 Jun; 2 T German CHEN 16 Jul; only reports.

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: T German CHEN 18 Jun, only report.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 30+ PIBA CHEN 15 Jun (MY).
Magnolia Warbler: max 30+ PIBA CHEN 15 Jun (MY).
Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 20+ PIBA CHEN 15 Jun (MY).
Black-throated Green Warbler: max 20+ PIBA CHEN 15 Jun (MY).
Blackburnian Warbler: max 35+ PIBA CHEN 15 Jun (MY).
Pine Warbler: 3 Roundtop Pk BROO 2 Jun; PIBA CHEN 15 Jun; T German CHEN 16 Jul; only reports.

Palm Warbler: T German CHEN 28 Jun, only report.
Blackpoll Warbler: T Union BROO 2 Jun; BU BROO 7 Jun; T Union BROO 3 Aug; T Lisle BROO 6 Aug; only reports.
N. Waterthrush: max 3 PIBA CHEN 15 Jun; 2 other reports, numbers down.
Louisiana Waterthrush: T Nanticoke BROO 8 Jun; BPdSF CHEN 22 Jun; only reports
Mourning Warbler: max 9 PIBA CHEN 15 Jul; 2 other reports.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Clay-colored Sparrow: T Springfield OTSE 27 (BG), 29 (PF) Jun; only reports.
Henslow's Sparrow: T Smithfield CHEN 21 Jul, only report.
Red Crossbill: max 14 PIBA CHEN 16 Jun (MY); nesting in several towns in Jul and Aug (MY), *intro*.
White-winged Crossbill: singing on territory in several towns in Jul (MY), *intro*; max 15+ Pitcher Springs State Forest CHEN 23 Aug (MY).
Evening Grosbeak: 2 PIBA CHEN 15 Jun

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REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

Bill Purcell

281 Baum Road, Hastings, New York, 13076
 wpurcell@twcny.rr.com

The season started warm, ended cool, and was slightly wetter than normal. There was a lot of weather instability in the first half of the season, when many days had the possibility of thunderstorms which can have an effect on birding effort. In June the temperature averaged 69.7°F, 3.9° above normal, and there was 3.75" of precipitation, 0.04" above normal. The July averages were 71.3°, 0.4° above normal, with 4.28" of rain, 0.26" above normal, and in August the

averages were 66.9°, 2.3° below normal, and 3.26" of precipitation, 0.06" above normal.

There were almost no June sightings of northbound waterfowl, and few local breeders were reported other than Mallards. Common Loons did have good breeding success on the smaller lakes in Herkimer County, but there were no reports from Stillwater Reservoir. Dispersing Great Egrets were scattered, and Black-crowned Night-Heron continues to be found at Onondaga Lake in August, but early summer visits are needed to see if they might be breeding. A flooded muckland in Volney has been a new site for Least Bittern, Pied-billed Grebe, and Common Moorhen, but the water may have been too high for Virginia Rail and Sora.

The hawk flight at Derby Hill was monitored on south winds in June and July; Broad-winged Hawks were known to keep moving into June, but a July flight of 40 birds was not expected. The August dispersal flight of raptors has typically been of Red-tailed Hawk. Their numbers were low this year, but, again, many Broad-wingeds were seen. At Three Rivers WMA the Bald Eagle nest had been leaning for two years and fell down in July shortly after two young successfully fledged. There was a first confirmed nesting of Peregrine Falcon in Utica, although the single egg was late and failed to hatch. There was also a first confirmed Merlin nest in Onondaga County at a Syracuse park. Osprey have recovered to the point where it is difficult to find anything new to say about them.

Besides the hawks, June migrants at Derby Hill included three Sandhill Cranes and a Laughing Gull. The gull was only the fourth June sighting for the species. There was limited shorebird habitat across the Region, as Lake Ontario water levels remained high well into August with little traditional beach habitat. The large sandbar at Sandy Pond that had formed in the past few years was not exposed, Delta Lake had not been drawn by the end of August, and a normally interesting flooded field in Madison County was planted with corn. The common shorebirds were reported in low numbers, and there were no reports of White-rumped, Baird's and Stilt sandpipers, Red Knot, or Short-billed Dowitcher. Three Whimbrel were seen over Derby Hill in July.

Common Nighthawk migrants have declined over Syracuse in August, and that tends to agree with the overall trend, but the devil's advocate might ask if the birds are now migrating later in response to warmer temperatures. A Red-headed Woodpecker was seen in the Adirondacks, where they have not normally nested, and there were at least two nesting reports from elsewhere.

Passerines still migrating at Derby Hill in June included Blue Jay, Cedar Waxwing, Blackpoll Warbler, and Baltimore Oriole. Two Sedge Wrens were still singing in West Monroe the last time anyone looked in the middle of July, and the nearby Prothonotary Warbler was seen the same day. There were reports of both the hybrid "Brewster's" and "Lawrence's" warblers this season. Fall warbler migration gets underway in July, but over most of the Region it's difficult to know if the birds seen in early August have moved a considerable distance or nested within several hundred yards. This year the first obvious migrant was a Wilson's Warbler on 14 August. By the end of the season

Tennessee, Cape May, Bay-breasted, and Blackpoll had all been seen along with the species that do breed in the Region.

White-winged Crossbills arrived in the area in late July. Some moved on, but others stayed to feed on the cones of red, white, and Norway spruce. A few Red Crossbills remained in the area. Evening Grosbeaks were seen with young in North Wilmut and Georgetown. Evening Grosbeak has been declining as a breeder, but it's thought that some from the previous winter's irruption may have stayed to nest this year.

The overall assessment of the wild food production was moderate to good. White pine had the best cone production since 1998 in many areas although it was only fair in some areas. Balsam fir and Norway, white, and red spruce had moderate to good crops, while hemlock was fair. Many fruit trees and shrubs had good crops; cherries were falling to the ground even as robins and waxwings ate their fill.

For the season, a total of 195 species was found. That's four species below the average for the last 10 years and attributable to lack of lingering waterfowl and the poor shorebird habitat. Highlights were Black-crowned Night-Heron, Laughing Gull, Sandhill Crane, Whimbrel, Sedge Wren, White-winged Crossbill, and Evening Grosbeak.

CONTRIBUTORS

Betty Armbruster, Brenda Best, Sue Boettger, Joseph Brin, Ken Burdick, Rose Burdick, Bernie Carr, Gerald Case, Ruth Florey, Natalia Garcia, Bill Gruenbaum, Gene Huggins, Andy Korycinski, Josiah LaCelle, Robbie LaCelle, Gary Lee, Dan Leete, Kevin McGann, Bob McGuire, Tom McKay, Yvonne Merriam, David Nash, Diane Parrish, Mike Patane, Matt Perry, Jelmer Poelstra, Bill Purcell, Chris Reidy, Paul Richardson, Margaret Rusk, Tom Salo, Cheri Sassman, Mickey Scilingo, Tony Shrimpton, Gerald Smith, Chris Spagnoli, Maureen Staloff, Adam Stein, Andrew Van Norstrand, David Wheeler, Tim Whitens, Judy Wright, Matt Young, Ken Zoller.

ABBREVIATIONS

CM – Clay Marsh; DH – Derby Hill; DL – Delta Lake; Geo – Georgetown; GSC – Great Swamp Conservancy, n. MADI; HI – Howland Island WMA; OneiL – Oneida Lake; SHF – Sky High Sod Farms, T Sullivan; SFNS – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; Skan – Skaneateles; SPd – Sandy Pond; SL – T's Sullivan & Lenox mucklands; SSSP – Selkirk Shores State Park; SVB – Sylvan and Verona Beach; Syr – Syracuse; VB – Van Buren; WH – Whiskey Hollow, T Van Buren; WM – West Monroe.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: Constantia 1 Jun; Camillus 22 Jun, late.

Wood Duck: max 56 DL 22 Aug.

Am. Wigeon: 2 GSC 29 Aug.

Blue-winged Teal: max 13 Volney 28 Aug.

Green-winged Teal: 3 Gravesville 30 Jul; 2 Volney 28 Aug; 3 Skan 30 Aug.
Com. Merganser: f & 7 fl Otisco L 6 Jun.
N. Bobwhite: reports from 4 sites GSC May-Jun, released birds?
Com. Loon: 8 Oneil 1 Jun.
Pied-billed Grebe: 2 CM 23 Jun; 2 SSSP 8 Jul; 2 ad. & 3 y. Volney 2 Jul.
Least Bittern: SSSP 8 Jul; 3 SPd 29 Jul; Volney 28 Aug.
Great Blue Heron: 6 migrant/dispersals DH 11 Jul.
Great Egret: 5 DH 31 Jul; singles at 9 sites after 18 Jul.
Green Heron: Big Moose L 29 Aug, unusual Adks.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: Onondaga L after 20 Aug; Meadowbrook Syr 20 Aug.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: max 27 DH 5 Jun; 9 DH 8 Jul.
N. Goshawk: 2 reports.
Broad-winged Hawk: max 381 DH 5 Jun; 40 DH 8 Jul, late; 187 DH 24 Aug, summer dispersal.
Red-tailed Hawk: max 81 DH 18 Aug.
Merlin: 2 ad and 2 y Syr 4 Jul; SPd 29 Jun; 6 Aug reports.
Peregrine Falcon: nest Utica, failed; New Haven 26 Aug; 2 Syr 30 Aug.
Com. Moorhen: max 27 Volney 28 Aug.
Am. Coot: SSSP 8 Jul, only report.
Sandhill Crane: 3 DH 10 Jun (TC).
Black-bellied Plover: SPd 4 Jun, only report.
Am. Golden-Plover: arr SHF 23 Aug.
Semipalmated Plover: max 7 SL 16 Aug.
Killdeer: max 98 SL 16 Aug.
Solitary Sandpiper: max 11 Skan 9 Aug.
Greater Yellowlegs: 4 singles after 29 Jul.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr VB 9 Jul; max 5 Skan 30 Aug.
Upland Sandpiper: GSC 6 Jun; 2 Holland Patent 22 Jun.
Whimbrel: 4 DH 11 Jul (GS).
Ruddy Turnstone: last Oneil 1 Jun; SVB 29 Aug.
Sanderling: SPd 1 Jun; 5 SPd 29 Jul.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 7 SPd 29 Jul.
Least Sandpiper: 20 SPd 20 Jul; max 48 SL 16 Aug.
Pectoral Sandpiper: SL 16 Aug.
Dunlin: 3 Oneil 1 Jun; SPd 21 Jun, injured; Skan 17 Aug, basic.
Laughing Gull: DH 10 Jun (TC).
Bonaparte's Gull: max 94 SVB 29 Aug; n. HERK 24 Jul, unusual Adks.
Caspian Tern: max 58 SPd 29 Jul.

Black Tern: max 24 SPd 29 Jul.
Com. Tern: 11 SPd 29 Jul; 57 SW Oneil 4 Aug; 33 SVB 29 Aug.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: continues widespread even into lower Tug Hill.
Com. Nighthawk: Taberg 12 Jun; max 10 Syr 13 Aug & total 64 Syr 12-31 Aug.
Whip-poor-will: reports from Constantia, Rome Sand Plains and Vienna, traditional sites.
Red-headed Woodpecker: Rondaxe L HERK 10 Jun, unusual Adks; 2 ad & 3 y Lysander 8 Jul; nesting SVB Jun.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Orange-sided Flycatcher: arr 12 Aug SVB; SFNS 29 Aug.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: VB 2 Jun; Redfield 4 Jul, edge of breeding range; arr Hastings 15 Aug.
Acadian Flycatcher: Camillus Unique Area 22 Jun; 2 WH into Aug.
Philadelphia Vireo: SFNS 17 Aug, early.
Blue Jay: 510 DH 6 Jun & 40 DH 21 Jun, late migrants.
Fish Crow: 2 Liverpool 16 Jun; max 8 Syr 19 Jul.
Horned Lark: max 42 Skan 17 Aug.
Bank Swallow: max 600 SL 30 Aug.
Sedge Wren: 2 singing WM into Jul.
Swainson's Thrush: SFNS 30 Aug, early.
Cedar Waxwing: 178 DH 8 Jul, late migrants.

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: SFNS thru Jul; Hastings 11 Aug.
"Brewster's" Warbler: 3 reports.
"Lawrence's" Warbler: Delphi Falls 4, 15 Jun; HI 31 Aug.
Tennessee Warbler: arr Hastings 27 Aug.
Nashville Warbler: Hastings 21 Aug.
N. Parula: arr SFNS 30 Aug.
Magnolia Warbler: arr Hastings & VB 20 Aug.
Cape May Warbler: arr 2 Hastings & 1 VB 28 Aug.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: CM 23 Jun, unusual site; arr Clinton 30 Aug.
Black-throated Green Warbler: 2 HI 31 Aug.
Blackburnian Warbler: SFNS 29 Aug; 2 HI 31 Aug.
Prairie Warbler: on territory Geo & Tully 27.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr SFNS 30 Aug.
Blackpoll Warbler: last DH 21 Jun; arr Hastings 31 Aug.

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Cerulean Warbler: Orwell 8 Jul, unusual Tug Hill.

Prothonotary Warbler: still singing WM 16 Jul.

N. Waterthrush: Hastings 21 Aug; SFNS 30 Aug.

Mourning Warbler: max 15 WH 2 Jun; Hastings 27 Aug.

Hooded Warbler: singing Redfield & Orwell 3 Aug.

Wilson's Warbler: arr Hastings 14 Aug; SFNS 24 Aug.

Canada Warbler: singles SFNS & Hastings after 10 Aug

Grasshopper Sparrow: Geo 4 Jun; 3-4 pair Green Lakes SP 10 Jun.

Dark-eyed Junco: pair Oakwood Cem Syr 16 Jul.

Orchard Oriole: 2 DH 10 Jun; VB 22 Jun; Sandy Creek 28 Jun; 2 SFNS to 7 Aug.

Baltimore Oriole: 10 DH 7 Jun; 9 DH 10 Jun.

Purple Finch: small flocks after mid Aug.

Red Crossbill: 2 DeRuyter 4 Jun; 2 Fabius 26 Jul; Geo & Fabius 23 Aug.

White-winged Crossbill: Fabius 26 Jul; 17 Boylston 27 Jun; 20 W Winfield 29 Jul, transient; Geo & Fabius 23 Aug.

Evening Grosbeak: 2 Clinton 5 Jun; feeding y Geo 26 Jul; 14 N Wilmurt 6 Aug, 3-4 fl.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Vesper Sparrow: 2 SFNS 2 Jun.

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REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

Jeffrey S. Bolsinger

98 State Street, Canton NY 13617

jsbolsinger@yahoo.com

The summer of 2008 was slightly warmer and much wetter than average. Mean temperatures in Watertown of 68.6° F in June and 70.5° F in July were 3.3° and 0.3° above normal, respectively, but August's mean temperature of 67.2° was 1.4° below normal. Watertown received 4.2" of precipitation in June, 5.2" in July, and 6.4" in August for a seasonal total that was 5.1" above normal. Seasonal departures from normal were similar across the Region, but the localized nature of many storms resulted in different locations receiving the bulk of their rainfall at different times. For instance, in Watertown each successive month was wetter, but in Ogdensburg June and July were very wet, with 2.0" and 4.0" above normal, respectively, and the August total was 0.6" below normal. Variation in the timing and intensity of rainfall events across the Region suggests that birds were affected differently in different locations depending on when the heaviest precipitation occurred.

The wet weather appears to have affected birds in at least two ways. First, ground-nesting birds likely suffered lower nest success and higher mortality, as suggested by the relative paucity of reported broods and small brood sizes for dabbling ducks and grouse. Lee Harper reports that three Common Tern colonies on the St. Lawrence River suffered 25% mortality of chicks from single thunderstorm events in June, but that colonies elsewhere on the river had no
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storm-related mortalities. Second, high water levels left very little shoreline exposed along the Region's rivers, ponds, and lakes, and not surprisingly few shorebirds were reported. This year's precipitation differed dramatically from last summer when exceptionally dry conditions provided unusually abundant shorebird habitat and high nest success for at least some ground nesting birds.

There are now at least three nesting locations for Trumpeter Swan in the Region, although the newest pair in a Watertown cemetery pond apparently lost their brood during the summer. In contrast to the apparent situation for some species, the numbers of Ring-necked Duck and Pied-billed Grebe broods at Upper and Lower Lakes were comparable to recent years. An adult male Lesser Scaup continued on Lower Lake through late June and was consistently seen in an area where a pair had been observed several times in May. These observations, combined with a very distant view of a bird thought to be a female scaup in mid-June, suggested the possibility of local nesting, but breeding was not confirmed and no scaup were seen in July or August. A brood of Common Goldeneye off Picton Island in the Thousand Islands represented the second nesting record for Region 6, the first having come from the same location in 1996. The avian botulism outbreak continues to kill birds on Lake Ontario, but at least through the end of the summer mortality was substantially lower than during the previous two years. As of 5 August DEC personnel found 31 dead Caspian Terns on Little Galloo Island compared with 800 and 309 in 2006 and 2007, respectively. Surveys along the Lake Ontario shoreline found similarly reduced numbers of carcasses, suggesting that the severity of the outbreak is subsiding.

On 28 July Chris Reidy observed a **Black Vulture** soaring with several Turkey Vultures over Leray, which was the first sighting of this species in Region 6 in several years. Merlin sightings came from throughout the Region, with probable or confirmed nesting in forested areas of the Adirondacks and Tug Hill as well as towns in the St. Lawrence Valley. On 14 August a Peregrine Falcon was briefly seen flying over Lower Lake. Several observers felt that Northern Harrier numbers were lower than in recent years, and Red-tailed Hawk numbers also seemed low in northern Jefferson County. At least two of three Sandhill Cranes present in Ellisburg in May continued through mid-August. Charlotte Briant began seeing a pair of cranes near her house in June and witnessed apparent courtship dances on several occasions, but no evidence of successful reproduction was detected. Based on the locations where these cranes occurred in May and presumably June and where they spent the rest of the summer, there was some speculation that this pair attempted to nest in or near a hayfield that was mowed during June.

Following a year with relatively good shorebird diversity, this year's reports returned to the dismal numbers that have become the norm over the past decade. A few species accounted for the vast majority of reports, especially Greater and Lesser yellowlegs, Solitary and Least sandpipers, and the usual breeding species. The only noteworthy migrants were a Whimbrel that Nick Leone found in Cape Vincent and a Ruddy Turnstone Gerry Smith saw along the St. Lawrence River. Several observers noted that they looked for shorebirds only

once or twice and were so discouraged by the lack of birds and available habitat that they gave up looking for the remainder of the season.

Most of the grassland bird highlights came from Fort Drum, and apparently few observers spent any time looking for grassland birds elsewhere. One exception was a family of Upland Sandpipers MaryBeth Warburton found in Lawrence, which was the season's only confirmed nesting. Highlights on Fort Drum included at least 17 singing male Henslow's Sparrows and 16 territorial Sedge Wrens. This number of Henslow's Sparrows represents an increase over recent years, perhaps because of habitat loss elsewhere in Jefferson County from development and changing agricultural practices, forcing birds into the few remaining patches of habitat. One of the largest of these is on Fort Drum. Sedge Wrens apparently had a successful year nesting on the installation, as fledglings were seen on 6 territories in July and August.

Field biologists from Cornell, NYSDEC, and Fort Drum conducted surveys in the St. Lawrence Valley and adjacent areas for winged warblers. On Fort Drum, the phenotypes of 152 territorial males were visually confirmed, yielding the following breakdown: 47% Golden-winged, 36% Blue-winged, 15% Brewster's or hybrids of generally similar appearance, and 2% Lawrence's. The three "Lawrence's" Warblers were the first ever documented on Fort Drum and, along with the decreasing proportion of Golden-winged Warblers—outnumbering Blue-wingeds approximately 5:1 in the mid-1990s and 3-1 by 2000—and increasing numbers of Blue-winged and Brewster's Warblers, illustrates the ongoing replacement of Golden-winged by Blue-wingeds. Blue-winged Warblers continue to be less abundant in the northern portions of Region 6 but are increasing. For instance, two Blue-winged Warblers occupied territories at Indian Creek Nature Center, where only Golden-wingeds had been found before 2008.

Clay-colored Sparrows continue to increase on Fort Drum, where an amazing one-day count of 42 singing males was tallied in late June. This species clearly is well established as a breeder in Region 6, and the scarcity of reports from elsewhere in the Region likely is the result of low observer effort, as abundant habitat seems to occur throughout much of Jefferson County and portions of St. Lawrence County.

White-winged Crossbills invaded the Region in July, with the largest numbers in the state coming from the Tug Hill and smaller numbers in the Adirondacks. Tom Magarian documented the invasion in the northern Tug Hill, where he first reported them in late July and saw upwards of 250 by 12 August. Small numbers of Red Crossbills were also noted, but I received only one Pine Siskin and two Evening Grosbeak reports.

Notable among passerines was a **Dickcissel** Gerry Smith found singing from a power line in Hammond in June. This was only the second well-documented Dickcissel report for Region 6, the first coming from June 1996, although at least two reports of fall migrants from the past ten years have failed to make it into *The Kingbird*. Several observers noted early fall migrants during the last two weeks in August, especially flycatchers and warblers on Fort Drum and the Tug Hill. Perhaps the most interesting of these early migrants was a Philadelphia

Vireo on Fort Drum 13 August, which is about a week earlier than is normal. On 26 August a flock of fall migrant warblers on Fort Drum contained 14 species, including one Cerulean Warbler, a species rarely reported as a migrant in Region 6.

For the season I received reports of 191 species, three fewer than for the previous summer. Perhaps the highlight of the season was the late summer influx of White-winged Crossbills, but other highlights were potential nesting Sandhill Cranes and confirmed Common Goldeneye breeding, as well as high numbers of Sedge Wrens and Clay-colored and Henslow's sparrows on Fort Drum. The apparent decline in botulism-induced mortality was also good news. On the negative side were the complete lack of Sora reports and a perceived decline in the numbers of Common Moorhens, the continued loss of grassland bird habitat belying the good numbers for Henslow's Sparrow and Sedge Wren, and a return to paltry shorebird numbers and diversity.

CONTRIBUTORS

Ginny Alfano, Marilyn Badger, Jessie Barry, Steven Benedict, Jeff Bolsinger, Charlotte Briant, Carol Cady, Bernie Carr, Benjamin Clock, Joan Collins, Vici & Stephen Diehl, Lee Harper, Carolyn Jacobs, Mike Jeziorski, Tom Magarian, Matthew Medler, William Munro, Nick Leone, Jerry & Judi LeTendre, Gary Lewandrowski, Irene Mazzocchi, David Prosser, Chris Reidy, Theresa Rush, Robert Scranton, Gerry Smith, MaryBeth Warburton.

ABBREVIATIONS

CB – Chaumont Barrens, T Lyme; CV – T Cape Vincent; FD – Fort Drum Military Reservation; FM – Fox Marsh, T Colton; FrRd – French Road, T Martinsburg; ICNC – Indian Creek Nature Center, T Canton; LGI – Little Galloo Island; LPd – Leonard Pond trail, T Colton; LRUD – Low's Ridge-Upper Dam trail, T Colton; MM – Massawepie Mire, T Piercefield and Colton; OP – Oak Point, T Hammond; PilPt – Pillar Point, T Brownville; PRWMA – Perch River WMA; SB – Sevey Bog, T Colton; SLR – St. Lawrence River; ULLWMA – Upper and Lower Lakes WMA, T Canton; WS – Winthrop Swamp, T Stockholm.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Trumpeter Swan: pr with 6 y PRWMA; pr w 2 y Brookside Cemetery Watertown.

Am. Wigeon: PRWMA 22 Jun.

Am. Black Duck: max 6 ULLWMA 29 July.

Mallard: few broods reported.

Blue-winged Teal: max 5 ULLWMA 22 Aug.

N. Pintail: PRWMA 22 Jun.

Ring-necked Duck: broods of 3, 5, 7, 9, & 9 y ULLWMA 21 Jun, where at least 6 additional broods Jul & Aug.

Lesser Scaup: ad m ULLWMA thru 29 Jun.

Com. Goldeneye: ad w 10 y Picton Is SLR 30 June, 2nd Regional nesting record (WM, photos!).

Ruffed Grouse: broods scarcer and smaller than usual.

Com. Loon: pr with 2 y ULLWMA 14 Jun, earliest reported chicks; max 12 Butterfield L Aug.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 59 ULLWMA 23 Aug.

AM. WHITE PELICAN: Cranberry L 18 Jun (VD & SD!).

Double-crested Cormorant: 2492 nests LGI 11 Jun.

Am. Bittern: 6-12 per day FD early Jun; nest with 2 y FD 16 Jul.

Least Bittern: 2 FD 23 Jun; Potsdam 27 Jun.

Great Egret: max 115 WS 20 Aug (RS).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: reports from PRWMA, ULLWMA, WS.

BLACK VULTURE: with 7 Turkey Vultures Leray 28 Jul (CR!).

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: FD nest w 2 y lost during late Jun storm when snag blew over; nest on communications tower Oswegatchie; several new nests CV.

Bald Eagle: pr fledged 2 juv ULLWMA.

N. Harrier: numbers lower than in recent years.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: nest ICNC.

Cooper's Hawk: nest ICNC less than 1 mile from Sharp-shinned Hawk nest.

N. Goshawk: different locations FD 21 Jun, 24 Jun, 19 Jul; Star Lake early Aug.

Red-shouldered Hawk: juv at nest FD 2 Jul.

Merlin: 2 pr Canton neighborhoods within 1 mile from site of nest that apparently failed in 2007; many reports from all areas.

Peregrine Falcon: ULLWMA 14 Aug.

Com. Moorhen: absent from at least five locations JEFF & STLA where annual to at least 2006.

Virginia Rail: max 2 ICNC 29 Jun.

Sora: no reports.

Sandhill Crane: 2 thru mid-Aug Ellisburg near where 3 present most of May (CB!).

Black-bellied Plover: 2 PilPt 19 Aug.

Semipalmated Plover: Pt. Salubrious 21 Jul.

Killdeer: max 75 CV late Aug.

Greater Yellowlegs: 1-3 per day CV 8 Jul thru.

Lesser Yellowlegs: 6-10 per day CV 8 Jul thru.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr ICNC 29 Jul.

Upland Sandpiper: 5 displaying ad FD Jun; 2 ad with 2 y Lawrence (MW).

Whimbrel: CV 19 Jul (NL).

Ruddy Turnstone: OP 2 Aug.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 5 OP 2 Aug.

Least Sandpiper: max 8 LGI 21 Jul.

Bonaparte's Gull: Sackett's Harbor 29 Jul.

Caspian Tern: 54 carcasses L Ontario shore thru 5 Aug, far fewer than previous two years.

Com. Tern: 656 nests SLR (NYS side) produced 1031 chicks (LH); three SLR colonies suffered 25% mortality of chicks from thunderstorms 19-20 Jun.

Black Tern: no reports away from large colonies at PRWMA & ULLWMA.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: max 4 FD 9 Jun; numbers still higher than before 2003-05 tent caterpillar outbreak.

Com. Nighthawk: breeding max 17 on 10-stop survey route FD 19 Jul; migration max 65 Philadelphia & Gouverneur 21 Aug.

Whip-poor-will: max 36 on 10-stop survey route FD 19 Jul; 23 on Limerick route.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 7 pr FD Jun & Jul, where 7 ad & 5 juv foraging together 19 Aug; 2 pr CV thru; Hammond 15 Jun.

Black-backed Woodpecker: ad fy LPd 19 Jul.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: migrant FD 13 Jun; FrRd 2 Aug; additional reports FM, Horseshoe L, LPd, LRUD, MM.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: migrants FD 4 Jun & 21 Aug; FrRd 4 Aug.

Philadelphia Vireo: presumed migrant FD 13 Aug.

Gray Jay: max 5 MM 16 Aug.

Horned Lark: "good numbers" CV Jun.

Cliff Swallow: 8 nests in Hammond colony, good number for a site away from SLR.

Boreal Chickadee: ad feeding 4 y SB 10 Jul.

Carolina Wren: Watertown 16 Jul (NL); CV 7 Jul thru (JL & JL, NL).

Sedge Wren: 16 singing m FD Jul, where y found on 6 terr late Jul & early Aug.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max 2 pr FD 2 Jun.

N. Mockingbird: CV 12 Aug.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: 55 singing males FD Jun; 2 singing m ICNC where none previously.

Golden-winged Warbler: 71 singing m FD Jun.

"Brewster's" Warbler: 23 singing m FD Jun.

"Lawrence's" Warbler: 3 singing m FD Jun.

Prairie Warbler: 12 singing m FD Jun; several reports Chaumont Barrens.

Palm Warbler: several pr fy MM 7 Jun; additional reports LRUD & SB.

Blackpoll Warbler: last spring migrant FD 6 Jun; first fall migrant Martinsburg 27 Aug.

Cerulean Warbler: migrant FD 26 Aug; rarely reported after Jul.

Canada Warbler: 3-10 per day FD thru.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Clay-colored Sparrow: max 42 singing m FD 27 Jun, where at least 76 territories Jun; increasing.

Vesper Sparrow: 12-20 per day FD thru.

Grasshopper Sparrow: 4-8 per day FD thru.

Henslow's Sparrow: 17 singing m FD Jun and several more Jul, more than recent years; only

other reports Dog Hill Rd Orleans, Hall Rd Leray.

Lincoln's Sparrow: juv Martinsburg 1 Aug; many LRUD, MM, SB.

DICKCISSEL: singing m Hammond 25 Jun (GS, JB, DP, DB, photos!), seen again 2 Aug (GS).

Red Crossbill: 2 FrRd 30 Jul.

White-winged Crossbill: 7 FD 19 Jul; max 255 FrRd 12 Aug (TM); scattered singles and small flocks S STLA Jul & Aug.

Pine Siskin: SB 10 Jul.

Evening Grosbeak: 4 Potsdam 17 Jul; Higley Flow SP 30 Jul.

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REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

John M.C. Peterson

477 County Rte 8, Elizabethtown, NY 12932

jmcp7@juno.com

Summer '08 was wet. Over the 92 days, Inlet had rainfall on 56 of those, including three deluges of 3" or more. Heavy rain greeted visiting birders at the 6th Great Adirondack Birding Celebration on 6 June, but by the following day Plattsburgh was sweltering in 94° record heat. Storms on 10 June brought 60 mph winds to Malone and pea-sized hail at Cumberland Head. Precipitation, from showers to downpours, continued, and June saw just six entirely dry days. July brought even more rain, with 2" at Auger Lake on the 20th and straight line winds of 80-90 mph damaging Chazy. The Route 11 corridor got another 2" the following day, and there had been only ten dry days in July before Newcomb received 1.46" on the 24th. The pattern continued into August, with 2" of rain at Auger Lake on the 4th and a further 2" in western Essex County on 6 August. Lake Champlain reached a record high for the month on the 11th and continued to rise for two more days before finally dropping back. The lake had stood at 97.33' on 1 June, gradually dropped to 96.18' by 18 July, then swollen rapidly to an all-time August high of 98.81' by the 13th, before receding to 97.80' at season's end, offering few beaches or mudflats for southbound shorebirds.

The high water along the Clinton County shoreline may account for the variety of puddle ducks at the Chazy Riverlands, including Gadwall, American Wigeon, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, and Green-winged Teal. Only 14 shorebirds were found, however, and almost all were found on the Gravelle

or Laurin farms at Chazy Riverlands or the thin strip of black sand beach at Noblewood Park. Five shorebird species at the Laurin farm included late northbound migrants, recorded well before the lake reached record levels: Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs 7 June, Least and White-rumped sandpipers 6 June, and Dunlin lingering to 8 June.

The abundant rainfall doubtless had a positive effect upon the wild food crop, however. Cones were heavy on northern white-cedar, tamarack, and eastern white pine, less so on balsam fir and red spruce. American beech and northern red oak were loaded with beechnuts and acorns. Apples and cherries weighted down every tree, and berries loaded almost every bush. The most obvious impact upon birds was the invasion of crossbills. Red Crossbill, last reported 6 February, was found at Madawaska on 5 July, and by August there were reports from Essex, Franklin, and Hamilton counties, including at least two of the types described by Jeff Groth, based upon voice recognition and recordings. White-winged Crossbill was last reported during count week of the Saranac Lake CBC, but after the first summer report at Lake Placid 9 July they became even more abundant than Red Crossbill in the same three counties. The white-winged birds were seen feeding on dead tamarack and live balsam fir at Chubb River, tamarack cones at Moose River Plains, and tamarack and spruce at Newcomb, although their summer preference is often white spruce. During the most recent 2006-07 crossbill invasion, Red Crossbills didn't appear until August and not until November were White-wingeds feeding on tamarack cones. All of the other winter finches were relatively scarce this summer, however. Red elderberry in a forested Keene yard attracted Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hermit Thrush, Black-throated Blue Warbler, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak; the fruit is known to be favored by over 40 avian species.

Several species were notably late or early, with Snow Geese at Chazy Riverlands and Brant at Four Brothers into June, although neither is unprecedented. A record-late **Fox Sparrow** at a feeder on Rand Hill in Beekmantown on 1 June was quite unexpected, however, since the '08 spring passage took place during a three-week window between 31 March and 20 April. An equally surprising early arrival was the hen-plumaged **Bufflehead** at Noblewood Park on 23 August. A Red-necked Grebe there the same month also seemed early, although there are previous August records from Akwesasne Mohawk Reserve, Long Lake, and Mirror Lake. Also noteworthy were a Sandhill Crane at Westport 25 August and an adult **Black-headed Gull** in alternate plumage at Noblewood Park on 23 August. A respectable total of 189 species was reported during Summer 2008, just short of the 191 in Summer 2007 and the record 192 species in Summer 2004, an Atlas year.

Yet another work has joined the growing library of Adirondack-Champlain books with the publication of *Adirondack Birding: 60 Great Places to Find Birds* (2008) by John M.C. Peterson and Gary N. Lee. Published by Lost Pond Press of Saranac Lake, the 240-page book is illustrated with superb color photographs of 46 regional birds by Jeff Nadler and site photos by Phil Brown, Carl Heilman, Jr., Gary Randorf, John Thaxton, and others as well as drawings by Mike Storey and cartoons by Jerry Russell. Hand-drawn maps for each of the

60 sites are by cartographer Matthew Paul. In addition, the book includes an 8-page chapter on “A History of Adirondack Birding” by Peterson, an annotated bibliography of regional bird books, and other features. Price is \$20.95, available online from Lost Pond Press at www.lostpondpress.com or the Adirondack Mountain Club at www.adk.org and can be found in local retail outlets that deal in outdoor books. This Region has long been a mecca for birders, and the authors hope *Adirondack Birding* will help fill the growing need for a current guidebook.

CONTRIBUTORS

Kenneth Adams, Gail Benson, Thomas Burke, Bernard Carr, Joan Collins, Joseph Corey, Diane Demers, Beth Edmonds, Susie Fast, Elizabeth & Holland Fitts; Peter Galvani, Judith Heintz, Candace & John Hess, Gordon Howard, Suzy Johnson, Bill Krueger, William Labes, Linda LaPan, Julie Lattrell, Gary Lee, William Lenhart, Mark A. Manske, Brian McAllister, Melanie A. McCormack, James McGraw, Chita & Robert McKinney, Matthew D. Medler, Michael & Wanda Moccio, Theodore Murin, Megan A. Murphy, Jeff Nadler, Daniel Nickerson, George Nixon, Sean O'Brian, Nancy Olsen, Lydia & Paul Osenbaugh, Dan Peters, John Peterson, Dana Rohleder, Laura Smith, Marilyn Smith; Dean Spaulding, William Stahl, Eric K. Teed, John & Patricia Thaxton, Eve D. Ticknor, Jan Trzeciak, James Vallozzi, Mary Beth Warburton, Nancy & Timothy Whitens, Cecelia Wojciukiewicz, Matthew Young.

ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Ausable Pt; BB – Bloomingdale Bog; BTS – Brown's Tract Stream; CH – Cumberland Head; CP – Crown Pt SHS; CR – Chazy Riverlands; CRF – Cedar R Flow; FB – Ferd's Bog; FBI – Four Brothers islands; GBM – Gilbert Brook Marina; IL – Indian L; KB – King's Bay; LP – L Placid; MRP – Moose R Plains; NP – Noblewood Pk; PS – Paul Smiths; PtF – Pt au Fer; PtR – Pt au Roche; SB – Sabattis Bog; SC – Scotion Cr; SL – Saranac L.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: 4 ads, 3 imm CR 6-7 Jun (BK); 4 there 13 Jun (BK, NO), late.

Brant: FBI 25 Jun (LS), late, but 5th Jun record there since 1954.

Canada Goose: max 27 ads, 9 imm CRF 8 Jun (GL).

Mute Swan: Raquette L 1 Jun (GL), 1st record HAMI.

Wood Duck: max 50 SC 19 Jul (MAMc, MDM).

Gadwall: 2 CR 7 Jun (BK), rare breeder.

Am. Wigeon: 2 CR 7 Jun (BK), rare breeder.

Blue-winged Teal: Madawaska 8 Jun (BC); CR 20 Jun (BK), only reports.

N. Shoveler: 2 pr CR 7 Jun (BK), rare breeder.

Green-winged Teal: 20+ CR 7 Jun, only report.

BUFFLEHEAD: f-type NP 23 Aug (MDM), early ESSE & Reg. 7.

Com. Goldeneye: ad, 8 y CH 7 Jun (BK); f, 3y Oseetah L 13 Jul (LL); 1-14 f-types NP 3 Aug thru (MDM).

Gray Partridge: 3-4 Am Legion field, Malone 27 Jun (M&WM); seen & heard there 28 Jun (LL, M&WM, GN), but only reports from the

former stronghold along the Border.

Com. Loon: Corlear Bay 1-2 Jun (DR); 2 CH 18 Jun (NO); ad NP 2 Aug (MDM); numerous inland reports; both Chazy L platforms successful (CH), 4 y.

Pied-billed Grebe: ad, 6 y SC 5 Jun (NO); CRF 8 Jun (GL); ad, 4 y SC 11 Jun (NO); juv AP 21 Jun; ad, juv CR 25 Jul (BK); Macomb Res 30 Jul (MDM), a good showing.

Horned Grebe: 2 CH 27 Jul-31 Aug (NO), unexpected.

Red-necked Grebe: alt NP 28 Aug (LS, EDT)-30 Aug (MDM), 2nd Aug record ESSE, 4th in Reg 7.

Double-crested Cormorant: 8 Auger L 1 Jun (GH); eggs in 2221 of 3811 nests oiled FBI 1st wk Jun; 378 ads shot FBI by early Jul; 500 ads & imms shot CP May-Jul (NYSDEC), disgusting; 5 Middle Saranac L 11 Aug (WS); ad & imm Ausable R, Wilmington 13 Aug (WS); record 11 Auger L 18 Aug (GH), unusual inland numbers.

Am. Bittern: nest with 3 eggs FB 29 Jun (GL), a nice find.

Least Bittern: WM 8 Jun (MAMc,MDM); PtF 15 Jun (BK); SC 19 Jul (MAMc, MDM), great showing.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: ad, 4y SC 5 Jun (NO); max 60 SC 19 Jul (MAMc, MDM), record high CLIN; 4 SC 29 Jul (NO), again no reports from FBI.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: Beaver Bk; Jones Pd; Lower Saranac L; NP, Osgood Pd, Raquette L; Wilmington, only suggestive.

N. Harrier: juv L Snow, T IL 22 Aug (MM), rare HAMI.

N. Goshawk: 4 banded T Franklin (MAMA).

Am. Kestrel: 7 of 27 FRAN nest boxes produced 25 chicks, with an additional 17 ads banded; late nest with 3 eggs T Moira 6 Aug (MAMA).

Merlin: Chateaugay; Elizabethtown; Golden Beach; IL; Keene; Mt View; MRP; Owl's Head Lookout; PS; Peru; Plattsburgh; Trudeau; Wakely Mt, only suggestive of numbers; nesting woods Plattsburgh HS cut down for ballfield & parking after y fledged, family there to 18 Aug (NO).

Peregrine Falcon: active eyries T Elizabethtown, T Keene, T Moriah, T Willsboro, T Wilmington; also seen NP, Plattsburgh, SC, Whiteface Mt; Inlet town pk 19 Jul (GL), 1st HAMI record in decades.

Virginia Rail: AP, Barnum Pd, KB, PS, PtF, SC, a fair showing.

Sora: The Gulf 14 Jun (MDM), only report.

Com. Moorhen: 1-2 CR 5 Jun-26 Aug (BK); 2 PtF 13 Jun (BK, NO), always good finds.

Sandhill Crane: Westport 25 Aug (EDT), 3rd ESSE record.

Black-bellied Plover: CH 16 Aug (BK), only report.

Semipalmated Plover: NP 4 Aug (MDM), only report.

Greater Yellowlegs: last CR 7 Jun; arr 3 CR 25 Jul (BK).

Lesser Yellowlegs: last CR 7 Jun; arr 3 CR 8 Jul; max 20 CR 25 Jul (BK).

Upland Sandpiper: confirmed breeding reported, but no details (MBW).

Sanderling: alt ad arr NP 19 Jul; NP 23 Aug (MDM).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: NP 4 Aug (MDM), only report.

Least Sandpiper: last 3 CR 6 Jun (BK); arr juv NP 4 Jul (MDM); max 21 CR 10 Jul (BK); 1-2 NP 19-20 Jul (MDM); 8 GBM 22 Aug (BK); 3 juv NP 24 Aug (MDM).

White-rumped Sandpiper: last CR 6 Jun (BK), no southbound reports.

Dunlin: max 5 CR 6 Jun; last CR 8 Jun (BK).

Wilson's Snipe: CRF 8 Jun (GL); singing & distraction flight Keene 10 Jun (J&PT); Gadway Barrens 20 Jun; max 4 winnowing T Essex 20 Jun (MDM); Raquette L 20 Jun (GL); CH 1 Jul (NO), low numbers.

Little Gull: 2 ads NP 4 Aug; basic ad NP 23 Aug; NP 26 Aug (MDM), rare ESSE.

BLACK-HEADED GULL: alt ad NP 26 Aug (MDM, ph), 2nd ESSE, 5th Regional record.

Bonaparte's Gull: 7 basic CR 6 Jun to 2 basic there 20 Jun (BK); NP 19 Jul thru, max 1000 there 26 Aug (MDM); Limekiln L 24 Jul (GL), 8th HAMI record; many Essex 5 Aug (JC); CH 17 Aug (NO); 112 GBM 22 Aug (BK), good numbers.

Ring-billed Gull: banded FB 12 Jun '99 returned Shelburne Bay, VT 2 Jul (TM); 4th return, aged 9 yrs, 1 mo.

Caspian Tern: 1-4 CR 7 Jul-25 Jul (BK); NP 12 Jul (NO) thru; max 27 there 25 Aug (MDM).

Black Tern: 1-4 PtF 8-12 Jun; 4 imm CR 28 Jul (BK); NP 23 Aug; 5 NP 30 Aug, headed south; max 13 NP 31 Aug (MDM).

Com. Tern: CR 13 Jun (BK,NO); NP 7 Jul (NO) thru; 92 there 30 Aug (MDM); max 294 GBM 22 Aug (BK), high CLIN & Reg 7.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Rock Pigeon: banded racing pigeon Plattsburgh feeder Jul (JH).

Black-billed Cuckoo: 5 T Essex & T Westport 20 Jun, giving short rattle flight calls early

a.m.; PTR 31 Jul (MDM), scarce in wake of forest tent caterpillar crash.

E. Screech-Owl: CH 25 Jul (JM); Keene 29 Aug (J&PT), more common than reports suggest.

Com. Nighthawk: 15 Pt Kent 2 Jun (DR); Plattsburgh 12 Jun (PO); 1-6 Peru 4 & 13 Jun, 24 Aug (EF); 2 Madawaska 4 Jul (MDM,SO); 12-14 Terry Mt 16 Aug (C&JH); 16 CH 18 Aug (NO); max 25 Chesterfield 18 Aug (DR); 2 Ausable Forks 23 Aug (DD); L Everest, T Wilmington 28 Aug (J&PT), simply outstanding.

Whip-poor-will: nest with 3 eggs Altona Flat Rocks 16 Jun (KA, ph), 1st CLIN; Clintonville Jun (JL); max 5 Mooers survey 11 Jun (JH,NO,MS); Terry Mt 19, 25 & 28 Jun (C&JH); T Essex 20 Jun (MDM); Peasleeville & Peru thru (EF), numbers bolstered by survey.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: ad m Keene 3 Jul (J&PT), eating red elderberries.

Am. Three-toed Woodpecker: f FB 5 Jun (GL); f FB 15 Jul (JN), yet again the only locale.

Black-backed Woodpecker: Armstrong Mt & Upper Wolfjaw; Beaver Bk; Beaver L; Boreas R; Boulder Brk; BTS; FB; Helldiver Pd; Ice House Pd; Jones Pd; Marion R; MRP; Newcomb; Osgood Pd; Owls Head; PS; Raquette L; Red R; Shallow L; Summer Stream; 2m, f FB 15 Jul (JN), one m with orange crown patch and whitish spots on back (see LaFrance, *Kingbird* 23:190-91 & 33:165-66).

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Willow Flycatcher: CR 8 Jun (BK); SC 11 Jun (NO); AP 21 Jun (BK), only reports.

Yellow-throated Vireo: singing m Rand Hill 15 Jun (JH), only report.

Philadelphia Vireo: singing m Lewey L 15 Jun (JC), only report.

Gray Jay: BB; Beaver Bk; Bigelow Rd; BTS; FB; Helldiver Pd; Madawaska; MRP; Osgood R, expected sites.

Com. Raven: 4 y tree nest Limekiln L 2 Jun (GL).

Purple Martin: 3 SC 19 Jul (MAMc,MDM); 3 families SC 29 Jul (NO,MS); 2 PTR 31 Jul (MDM), increasingly scarce due to housing shortage.

Tree Swallow: "not a lot" in central Adks (RM).

N. Rough-winged Swallow: CH (NO); NP 2 Aug (MDM), only reports.

Barn Swallow: "almost non-existent in the central Adirondacks" (RM).

Boreal Chickadee: BB; Bigelow Rd; Dix; FB;

Hough Pk; LL; Madawaska; MRP; Osgood R; SB; Wakely Mt, known sites.

Tufted Titmouse: CH; Elizabethtown; NP; SL; Witherbee, but surely more abundant.

Carolina Wren: Rte 3, Plattsburgh Jul (MAMc); Willsboro Bay 24 Aug thru (MDM), good finds.

Sedge Wren: singing m T Essex 2:25 a.m. 20 Jun (MDM); Treadwell Bay 22 Aug (SJ,BK), excellent finds.

Marsh Wren: 6 WM 8 Jun (MAMc,MDM); Rte 9N Elizabethtown 15 Jun (DP,DR); singing m T Essex 20 Jun (MDM), in dry field 1 mi north of Sedge Wren; max 40 SC 19 Jul (MAMc,MDM), a good showing.

Bicknell's Thrush: Blue Mt; Hough Pk; Lyon Mt; Macomb Mt slide (3480'); Pillsbury Mt; Upper Wolfjaw; Whiteface, undoubtedly many other peaks.

Swainson's Thrush: singing m near 4867' summit Whiteface Mt 8 Jun (J&PT), higher than the "somewhere near" 4000' expected in the High Peaks (Atlas 1988) and well above the limit of 3609' on Mt Mansfield, VT (Noon & Able 1978).

Gray Catbird: Blue Mt 21 Jun (JC), near 3760' summit.

N. Mockingbird: Plattsburgh 14 Jul (EF), only report.

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: Hurricane Rd, T Keene 15 Jun (DP, DR), a fortuitous find.

Tennessee Warbler: singing & feeding y Witherbee 1 & 8 Jun (CW), "good views"; CRF 8 Jun (GL), only reports.

Cape May Warbler: migrant ad NP 30 Aug (MDM), only report.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: m & imm Keene 3 Jul (J&PT), eating red elderberries.

Palm Warbler: Barnum Pd; Madawaska; Osgood Pd; PS; SB; Shallow L; max 6 BB 3 Aug (MDM,SO), now typical.

Bay-breasted Warbler: singing m 3100' Upper Wolfjaw 5 Jun (DD), near Blackpoll Warbler; MRP 28 Jun (JV), welcome reports.

Blackpoll Warbler: max 10 Lyon Mt 7 Jun (MDM).

Am. Redstart: 4249' Macomb Mt 4 Aug (DD), extremely high.

Ovenbird: 3 singing night song T Essex 20 Jun (MDM).

Louisiana Waterthrush: Highlands Rd, T Chesterfield 7 Jun (MDM), only report.

Mourning Warbler: see Wilson's Warbler.

Wilson's Warbler: m 2579' Hough Pk, Dix Range 23 Aug (DD), apparent food exchange to y Mourning Warbler.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Savannah Sparrow: Madawaska 7-8 Jun (BC), rather unexpected locale.

FOX SPARROW: Rand Hill feeder, T Beekmantown 1 Jun (PG), record late CLIN & Reg 7.

Lincoln's Sparrow: nest with 4 eggs FB 29 Jun (GL), 2' from Am. Bittern nest.

Swamp Sparrow: max 15 SC 19 Jul (MAMc,MDM).

White-throated Sparrow: 3 banded Elizabethtown 30-31 Aug (JP), *orange* lores & bend of wings

Rusty Blackbird: MRP 28 Jun; Beaver Bk 15 Jul (GL); L Everest, T Wilmington 15 Jul (J&PT); pr MRP 15 Jul (WL), only reports & troubling.

Com. Grackle: leucistic f feeding y Peru 2 Aug (E&HF), white feathers on face & head.

Purple Finch: max 6 banded Elizabethtown 26 Jul-30 Aug (JP), most reports from feeders.

House Finch: CH thru (NO), but only report!

Red Crossbill: 2 Groth Type 4s recorded Madawaska 5 Jul (MDM,SO); lg-billed New Russia 17 Jul (EKT); Eighth L 17 Jul (SF); LL 29-30 Jul (JC); 7 New Russia 4 Aug (EKT); 2 Blue Mt L 9 Aug; FB 9 Aug; Groth Type 1 Madawaska 10 Aug; Type 4 Madawaska 11 Aug (MY), may bode well for winter.

White-winged Crossbill: LP 9 Jul (BM), first report since Dec '07; increasingly abundant thereafter, with reports from Adk Loj Rd, Ausable R, BB, Bigelow Rd, Blue Mt L, Chubb R, Eighth L, FB, Icehouse Pd, Leonard Pd, LL, Madawaska, T Moriah; MRP, Mt View, Newcomb, New Russia, SB, Spring Pd, Whiteface Mt, with some flocks as large as 35-40, presaging an invasion winter.

Pine Siskin: a few Newcomb Jul (GB,TB); LL 3-6 Aug (JC); LL feeder 10 Aug (WL), scarce.

Am. Goldfinch: max 8 banded Elizabethtown 14-15 Aug (JP), most reports from feeders.

Evening Grosbeak: scattered reports of breeding birds, mostly at feeders.

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REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

Will Yandik

269 Schneider Road, Hudson NY 12534

wyandik@hotmail.com

Summer 2008 began warm and wet and ended cooler and drier than average. June ended with temperatures 4.1°F above average, with precipitation 1.71" above average at the Albany International Airport. July continued warm and wet, 2.4°F above average with precipitation 3.44" above average, with rain that fell in a handful of heavy downpours. August began a cooling trend. Monthly temperatures never topped 88°F despite 20 cloudless days without precipitation. Fruit and mast crops appeared close to historic summer averages and no unusual insect outbreaks were reported.

Birders pounced into action this summer chasing a report from Richard Crossley of a Black-bellied Whistling Duck that appeared in Broadalbin, Fulton County. Excitement tanked shortly thereafter, when birders noticed a yellow tag around one of its legs, confirming that the bird was not wild. Enterprising birders, however, never pass up the chance to learn something and the episode

sparked an interesting online discussion about other species of vagrant waterfowl including tips on assessing their status as wild or escaped.

Chris Winters heard what she thought was a Barn Owl in open grasslands in Chatham, Columbia County and was lucky enough to confirm it by sight in early August. Barn Owl has not been reported in Columbia County since 1991, and, with scarcely any breeding records of this species in the Hudson Valley, they remain an almost ghost-like rarity. The bird was not found after August despite searching, suggesting that it was a tarrying migrant.

The Region's birders documented the usual roster of breeding birds this summer. Noteworthy, however, is Ron Harrower's report of 11 Whip-poor-wills on Cold Spring Road in Saratoga County, a maximum number seldom reported in central eastern New York.

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation negotiated a land-management plan with a developer that wants to build a 635,000-square-foot Beech-Nut baby food factory on vacant land at the Florida Development Park in Montgomery County. The state will monitor 90 acres of productive grassland habitat where state biologists found resident Northern Harriers when conducting a review of wetland boundaries at the site last year. As part of the \$124 million project, the developer will fund monitoring and mowing of the fields for five years before passing on management costs to Montgomery County. The eastern Mohawk Valley is one of the last vestiges of productive grassland habitat for harriers, Upland Sandpiper, Short-eared Owl, and a diverse list of grassland sparrows, so let's hope the program jumpstarts larger efforts to provide incentives to landowners to maintain these vanishing habitats. It's easy to argue that grasslands preservation is a hopeless cause since natural succession produces forests in our Region, but with 99% of the Midwestern tall-grass prairie under corn and soybeans perhaps we all share some responsibility for providing habitat for these threatened species.

The John Burroughs Natural History Society planned their June field trip to grasslands in Schoharie County and found a colony of Henslow's Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, and a **Clay-colored Sparrow**. Continuing the theme of interesting grassland birds, Hope Batchellor found a **Dickcissel** in the grasslands of Fort Edward in Washington County. Finally, two observers found an **American Tree Sparrow** in Columbia County, an unusual June species, but backed up with good supporting details.

CONTRIBUTORS

Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports, Larry Alden, Dave Baim, Hope Batchellor, Mona Bearor, Woodrow Bynum, Steve Chorvas, Gerry Colborn, Bill Cook, Tim Dormady, Corey Finger, Dave Gibson, Jane Graves, Richard Guthrie, Ron Harrower, John Hershey, Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club's Birdline of Eastern New York, Nancy Kern, Eric Kranz, Bill Lee, Alan Mapes, Dave Martin, Andrew Mason, Roger Miller, Mike Morgante, Frank Murphy, Gail & Rich Nord, Mike Peterson, John Piwowarski, Barb Putnam, Bob Ramonowski, Will Raup, Bill Ruscher, Joan Suriano, Bill & Marion Ulmer, Alison Van

Keuren, Marlene Vidibor, Carol & Owen Whitby, Phil Whitney, Tom Williams, Chris Winters, Allan & Phyllis Wirth, Chad Witko, Will Yandik, Robert Yunik.

ABBREVIATIONS

BCM – Black Creek Marsh, ALBA; COH – T Cohoes, ALBA; COX – T Cocksackie, GREE; FtE – T Fort Edwards, WASH; HR – Hudson Ri; VF – Vischer's Ferry, SARA.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Brant: L George WARR 9 Jun.
Gadwall: 6 Stanton Pd ALBA 12 Jun;
Stillwater SARA 29 Jun.
Blue-winged Teal: Stanton Pd ALBA 30 Aug.
N. Pintail: Stillwater SARA 29 Jun.
Green-winged Teal: Stillwater SARA 29 Jun;
COH 31 Jul-28 Aug.
Ring-necked Duck: Castleton RENS 4 July.
SURF SCOTER: Glen Lake WARR 9-11 Jun.
Com. Loon: 2 Alcove Res ALBA 17 Jul; 2
Tomhannock Res RENS 26 Aug.
Horned Grebe: Saratoga L 1 Jun; HR at Ft
Miller 9 Jun.
Am. Bittern: Meadowdale ALBA 12 Jun;
Delmar ALBA 30 Aug.
Least Bittern: 2 BCM 4-17 Jul; max 4 BCM
8 Aug.
Great Egret: Livingston COLU 31 Jul; COX
grasslands 3 Aug; 2 Schenectady 5 Aug; VF 6-
16 Aug; Moreau SARA 8 Aug; 4 Troy RENS
28 Aug.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: VF 6 Aug.
Black Vulture: Hoosick Falls RENS 23 Jun; 2
NYS Thruway Exit 21 1 Jul; 3 I-90 ALBA 25
Jul; Petersburg RENS 17 Aug.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

N. Harrier: Rensselaerville RENS 19 Jun;
COX grasslands 23 Aug.
N. Goshawk: Pittstown SF RENS 17 Aug.
Red-shouldered Hawk: Blenheim SCHO 8
Jun-4 Jul.
Merlin: Albany 18 Aug.
Peregrine Falcon: Peebles I SARA 31 Jul; 2
Troy RENS 21 Aug.
Virginia Rail: max 8-10 BCM 17 Jul.
Sora: BCM 17 Jul.
Semipalmated Plover: Rensselaerville RENS
13 Jul; 3 COH 28 Aug.
Solitary Sandpiper: 3 COX grasslands 3 Aug.
Greater Yellowlegs: COH 31 Jul; 2 Wilton
SARA 26 Aug.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 16 COH 28 Aug.

Least Sandpiper: Rensselaerville RENS 13
Jul; Hillsdale COLU 23 Jul; 2 COH 31 Jul;
COX 3 Aug.
Bonaparte's Gull: 3 L George WARR 1-2
Jun.
Com. Tern: L George WARR 1-2 Jun.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

BARN OWL: Chatham COLU 30 July-5 Aug
(CW), last COLU report 1991.
N. Saw-whet Owl: Niskayuna SCHE 15 Jul.
Com. Nighthawk: 3 Meadowdale ALBA 14
Aug; Glenville SCHE 21 Aug; COX grasslands
23 Aug; 3 Albany 26 Aug; Livingston COLU
30 Aug.
Whip-poor-will: max 11 Cold Spring Road
SARA 1 Jun (RH); Ghent COLU 31 Jul.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max 5 Twin Mt
GREE 7 Jun.
Horned Lark: Greenwich WASH 18 Jun.
Purple Martin: 10 Round L SARA 25-27 Jul;
Meadowdale ALBA 21 Aug.
Cliff Swallow: Meadowdale ALBA 14 Aug.
Bicknell's Thrush: max 12 Plateau Mt GREE
1 Jun.

WARBLERS

"Brewster's Warbler": COX grasslands 9
Aug.
Tennessee Warbler: Berne ALBA 3 Aug.
N. Parula: E Greenbush RENS 13-18 Jul.
Worm-eating Warbler: Deer Mt Preserve
GREE 12 Jun.
Mourning Warbler: Bennett Hill ALBA 5
Jun; 2 Petersburg RENS 11 Jun; Fulton
SCHO 27 Jul.
Hooded Warbler: Holt Preserve ALB A 1-16
Jun; Bennett Hill ALBA 5 Jun; New Salem
ALBA 13-27 Jun.
Wilson's Warbler: Berne ALBA 7 Aug.
Canada Warbler: Rensselaer Forest Tract
IBA RENS 12 Jun; Livingston COLU 24 Aug;
Petersburgh RENS 25 Aug.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: last Austerlitz COLU 1 Jun, unusual in Jun.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: Kilts Road SCHO 15 Jun.

Grasshopper Sparrow: FtE grasslands SARA 13 Jun; Saratoga Battlefield 29 Jun.

Henslow's Sparrow: 3-4 Kilt's Road SCHO 15 Jun-4 July.

DICKCISSEL: FtE grasslands SARA 13 Jun (HB).

Bobolink: max 17 COX grasslands 3 Aug.

E. Meadowlark: max 10 Saratoga battlefield SARA 2-18 Jun.

Orchard Oriole: Bethlehem ALBA 18 Jun, nesting pr.

White-winged Crossbill: 6 Fulton SCHO 27 Jul (TW).

Evening Grosbeak: Providence SARA 29 Jul.



REGION 9—HUDSON - DELAWARE

Michael Bochnik

86 Empire Street, Yonkers, NY 10704

The summer season had few extreme weather events, except for two short and modest heat waves. Temperatures were above normal for the first two months, but this was mainly caused by a lack of any usual cool spells. The first heat wave arrived early when temperatures rose into the nineties 7-10 June, with Poughkeepsie reaching 97° on both 9 and 10 June. Yonkers reached 99° on the 10th. The month averaged 3.7° warmer than normal, but with normal rainfall. Poughkeepsie did not reach 90° again until another mini heat wave hit 18-20 July, with temperatures in the low to mid nineties. July was 1.3" wetter than normal in Poughkeepsie, but drier in Yonkers due to the more northern paths of thunderstorms. Poughkeepsie failed to reach 90° in August but dipped down to a low of 45° on the 20th. August was 2.5° cooler than normal and slightly drier in Poughkeepsie, but 1.8" wetter in Yonkers, again due to the pattern of thunderstorm activity. Strong thunderstorms moved through southern Westchester on 15 August, with Pelham Manor recording a wind gust of 71 mph. A cold front on 19 August brought in a few migrants on 20 August, including Broad-wing Hawks at Hook Mountain. Another cold front brought in more migrants on the 27th.

The 33rd Greenwich-Stamford Summer Bird Count was held 7 and 8 June and found 147 species. Highlights from the New York portion were many and included three lingering Purple Sandpipers on Scotch Cap Island off on Rye. The Island also had four Ruddy Turnstones, over 300 Common Terns, five Forster's Terns, and a Black Skimmer. Hen Island had a Black-bellied Plover, two Semipalmated Plover, a pair of Willets, and two Seaside Sparrows.

Marshlands Conservancy and the neighboring community of Green Haven in Rye recorded a Little Blue Heron, two Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, a Snow Goose, seven Clapper Rails, Lesser Yellowlegs, 23 Marsh Wrens, a Mourning Warbler, and a Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow. This general area in Rye also had 32 Brant, 28 Oystercatchers, three fly over Caspian Terns, and 19 Purple Martins. The waters off Port Chester had two Least Terns.

An immature Great Cormorant was observed at Edith G. Read Preserve in Rye on 28 June. It was Westchester's third summer record. An immature Little Blue Heron was also seen on the Neversink River, just south of the Sullivan County border on 20 August. Yellow-crowned Night Herons nested in sycamore trees along a residential block on South Fifth Avenue in the city of Mt Vernon. Their story made the local papers. Apparently this was the second or third year in this location, but the first successful breeding year. An immature WHITE IBIS was found near Piermont Pier in Rockland County on 10 August. Carol Weiss, Glenys Foster Roberts, and Alan & Della Wells spotted an ibis flying overhead showing extensive white underneath at 11:30 that morning. A search of a NYDEC area along Sparkill Creek revealed the bird in a mud flat downstream. Photos were taken and posted on the web. The back and upper wing surfaces were dark brown, the breast, belly and rump were white. The head and neck were a very light brown. The legs were very light in color and the bill was pinkish. Attempts later in the day failed to find the bird, mainly due to a higher tide. This is the first record for Rockland County (see p. 355).

Henry Halama and Steve Chorvas observed a Sandhill Crane flying over the confluence of Esopus Creek from the Saugerties Lighthouse spit on 24 August. They first observed it circling and flying south from the boardwalk on their way in at 10:15 a.m., then again about an hour later from the same location on the way out.

A Whimbrel was found at the Pine Island Golf Course in Orange County on the last day of August. A Marbled Godwit visited Marshlands Conservancy in Rye on 8 August. It was later seen at nearby Milton Point on 10 and 13 August.

Two Caspian Terns also appeared at Piermont Pier on 27 July, and Forster's Terns were seen away from Long Island Sound at the Neversink Reservoir on 4 July, at Piermont Pier in late July, and a month later on 18 August.

Gene McGarry found an adult male SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER midday on 16 August at Galeville Park. Many people were able to view and photograph it during the next two days.

A Yellow-rumped Warbler was found at the Buttercup Sanctuary East in July, and the only report of Kentucky Warbler was that of a female and two young in Wingdale, Dutchess County.

Lance Verderame found a pair of White-winged Crossbills in Parksville on Cooley Road in Sullivan County 10 August. Arlene Borko and John Haas joined him and found a male singing from high atop a spruce where he was eventually joined by a second and third bird, one of which we believed to be a female. Eight were seen at this location on the 16th. Sightings continued to the end of the month.

CONTRIBUTORS

Michael Bochnik, Arlene Borko, Tom Burke, Brian Bury, Jim Carney, Binnie Chase, Steve Chorvas, Drew Ciganek, Andrew Farnsworth, Dot Fleury, Ken Fredericks, Valerie Freer, Corey Finger, Sibyll Gilbert, John Haas, Henry Halama, John Hannan, Veronika Krause, Gene McGarry, Curt McDermott, Tully McElrath, Alan Michelin, Ann Marie Pozzini, Carena Pooth, Glenis Roberts, Edith & Barry Rosen, Cameron Rutt, William & Lisa Schlesinger, Herb Thompson, Susan Treesh, Lance Verderame, John Workman, Carol Weiss, Alan & Della Wells.

ABBREVIATIONS

EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; GSSBC – Greenwich-Stamford Summer Bird Count; MC – Marshlands Conservancy ; SGNWR – Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: MC 7-8 June.
Brant: 32 Rye 7-8 June.
Wood Duck: 20 Buttercup 31 Jul.
Blue-winged Teal: 3 Morningside Park, Fallsburg 16 Aug.
N. Pintail: 5 Amenia 14 Aug (DF).
N. Bobwhite: 2 Bashakill 23 Jun (JHaa, AB).
Great Cormorant: imm EGR 28 Jun (TB).
Am. Bittern: 3 Bashakill 23 Jun.
Great Egret: 12 Pawling 28 Jul; 4 Denning's Pt 21-26 Aug.
Snowy Egret: Hopewell Junction 12 Aug.
Little Blue Heron: MC 7-8 June; imm Neversink R 20 Aug (JC).
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: 2 MC 7-8 June; 3 nests Mt Vernon Jun - Jul.
WHITE IBIS: imm Sparkill Creek, Piermont 10 Aug (A&DW,CW, GR), photographed.
Glossy Ibis: 21 MC 7 Aug.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 2 eaglets fledged, Stony Point Battlefield 2 Jul.
Broad-winged Hawk: 13 Hook Mt 20 Aug; 33 Chestnut Ridge 27 Aug.
Merlin: Fallsburg 14 Aug.
Clapper Rail: 7 MC and Green Haven 7-8 June.
Sora: Bashakill 23 Jun; Iona Island 22 Aug (CW).
Com. Moorhen: 9 Bashakill 25, 26 Aug.
Sandhill Crane: Esopus Creek from the Saugerties Lighthouse 24 Aug (SC, HH).

Black-bellied Plover: Hen I, Rye 7-8 June; 6 MC 20 Aug.
Semipalmated Plover: 2 Hen I, Rye 7-8 June; 12 MC 15 Jul; Monticello 24 Jul; 6 Piermont Pier 22 Jul; 38 MC 7 Aug.
Am. Oystercatcher: 28 Rye 7-8 June.
Greater Yellowlegs: 6 Piermont Pier 22 Jul; 8 MC 4 Aug.
Lesser Yellowlegs: Green Haven, Rye 7-8 June; Monticello 24 Jul, 11 Aug.
Willet: 2 Hen I 7-8 June, 1 on 10 Jun; Rye 13 Aug.
Spotted Sandpiper: 6 Morningside Park 13 Aug; 8 Rye 13 Aug.
Whimbrel: Pine Island Golf Course 31 Aug (ST, CM).
Marbled Godwit: MC 8 Aug; Milton Pt 10,13 Aug (TB).
Ruddy Turnstone: 4 Scotch Cap I, Rye 7-8 June ; 5 Rye 10 Jul; 10 Rye 10 Aug.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 59 MC 9 Aug.
White-rumped Sandpiper: MC 9 Aug.
Baird's Sandpiper: Morningside Park 13 Aug (JHaa).
Purple Sandpiper: 3 Scotch Cap I, Rye 7-8 June (GSSBC).
Short-billed Dowitcher: 33 MC 15 Jul; 5 Piermont Pier 22 Jul; 9 Piermont Pier 27 Jul.
Laughing Gull: 37 Rye 7-8 June.
Least Tern: 2 Port Chester 7-8 June; 2 MC 7,17 Jul.
Caspian Tern: 3 Rye 7-8 June (GSSBC); 2 Piermont Pier 27 Jul (DC,VF,CW).
Com. Tern: 443 Rye 7-8 June.

Forster's Tern: 5 Scotch Cap I, Rye 7-8 June; Neversink Res 4 Jul (JHaa,AB,VF); 4 Piermont Pier 22 Jul (CW); 5 Piermont Pier 27 Jul, 18 Aug (DC,VF,CW).
Black Skimmer: MC 5 Jun; Scotch Cap I, Rye 7-8 June.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Monk Parakeet: EGR 4,16 Jun.
Com. Nighthawk: 20 East Fishkill 24 Aug; 71 Bashakill 26 Aug; 51 Chestnut Ridge 25 Aug.
Chimney Swift: 308 Chestnut Ridge 27 Aug.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Liberty 17 Aug; Neversink 23 Aug.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Neversink 16, 23 Aug.
Acadian Flycatcher: Forestburg 7 Jun; 2 Mianus River George 8 Jun; Amenia 11 Jun; Nuclear L 20 Jul; Deep Hallow 26 Jul.
SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER: Galeville Park 16-18 (GM, mob).
Philadelphia Vireo: Denning's Point 27 Aug.
Horned Lark: 5 Red Hook 12 Jul.
Purple Martin: 19 Rye 7-8 June.
Marsh Wren: 23 MC-Green Haven, Rye 7-8 June.

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: Linear Park, Wurtsboro 9 Jun.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: Buttercup East 2 Jul (KF).

Blackburnian Warbler: Forestburg 7 Jun.

Cerulean Warbler: 4 Narrowsburg 4 Jun; 6 Doodletown 15 Jun.

Worm-eating Warbler: 11 Mianus River Gorge 8 Jun.

Kentucky Warbler: f and 2 yg Wingdale 19 Jul (SG).

Mourning Warbler: 3 Doodletown 7 Jun; MC 31 Aug.

Hooded Warbler: White Plains 7 June.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Vesper Sparrow: 3 Red Hook 12 Jul.

Grasshopper Sparrow: SGNWR 3 Jun (AP); 3 Red Hook 5 Jul; nesting SULL 13 Jul - 9 Aug (JHaa).

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: MC 5-7 June.

Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 4 MC 7-8 June.

Seaside Sparrow: 2 Hen I, Rye 7-8 June.

White-throated Sparrow: Forestburg 7 Jun; Buttercup East 2 Jul.

White-winged Crossbill: 3-8 Parksville 10-31 Aug (LV, JHaa,AB).

(973) 252-2712 (work) (914) 237-9331 (h)

E-mail: BochnikM@cs.com



REGION 10—MARINE

Patricia J. Lindsay

28 Mystic Circle, Bay Shore, NY 11706

pjlindsay@optonline.net

S. S. Mitra

Biology Department, College Staten Island,
2800 Victory Blvd., Staten Island, NY 10314

mitra@mail.csi.cuny.edu

About a week of hot weather in early June contrasted with the cool spring. The Eastport-Westhampton area was affected by a series of violent storms featuring lightning, hail, and destructive winds, most notably on 8 June.

After several years of rapidly increasing occurrence at all seasons, Turkey Vultures were finally confirmed breeding on Long Island when Charlie Morici found two half-grown young in a cellar ruin near Montauk this summer.

It was a good summer for land-based seawatches, with many productive sessions conducted from Jones Inlet to Montauk. Angus Wilson's series of reports from Amagansett nicely complemented the hard work of Tom Burke and others at Shinnecock and Moriches inlets. Cumulatively, the observations of many skilled people proved the presence this summer of good numbers of Cory's Shearwaters, along with smaller numbers of our other four species of regularly occurring tubenoses, quite close to Long Island's ocean shores. The routineness of Manx Shearwater inshore has only been appreciated for a few years. Offshore, John Shemilt single-handedly produced multiple, photographically documented, records of **South Polar Skua** and **Audubon's Shearwater**, as well as a **Bridled Tern**. This shearwater was also recorded on an organized pelagic trip to Hudson Canyon on 24 August.

Careful surveys of the Moriches Inlet flats from late May through early July in recent years have yielded not only many noteworthy larids, but also surprising numbers of summering shorebirds. This year was no exception, and especially noteworthy among the mid June records were "Western" Willets, a Western Sandpiper, at least two "Prairie" Short-billed Dowitchers, and a Long-billed Dowitcher. Later, during the height of southbound shorebird migration, a **Red-necked Stint** and a **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** coincided at Jamaica Bay (see p. 355). Other notable vagrants at Jamaica Bay this summer included a **White-faced Ibis** found by Doug Gochfeld and others during a field trip of NYSOA's Young Birders Club and a **Black-necked Stilt** found by Joseph O'Sullivan.

No fewer than nine individually distinguishable **Arctic Terns** were photographed near Moriches Inlet from 8 June to 20 July, continuing a trend that we have commented on in many a recent summer. **Sandwich Terns** also made news, with five distinguishable birds photographed at Cupsogue 8-29 June, dates that would have been very unusual just a few years ago (see p. 358). Unlike the

relatively cryptic **Arctic Tern**, which was likely overlooked in the past, **Sandwich Terns** really seem to be occurring earlier and more frequently than in the past, a pattern observed previously and on a much larger scale in Royal Terns.

CONTRIBUTORS

Seth Ausubel, Andy Baldelli, Catherine Barron, Robert Bate, Willy Becker, Gail Benson, Bob Berlingeri, Shane Blodgett, John Brush, Jr., Tom Burke, Ben Cacace, Robert DeCandido, Ken & Sue Feustel, Tom Fiore, Howie Fischer, Brendan Fogarty, John & Gerta Fritz, Karen Fung, Doug Futuyma, Paul Gillen, John Gluth, Doug Gochfeld, Juliette Goulet, Bob Grover, Joe Grupp, Paul Guris, Joel & Peg Horman, Phil Jeffrey, Rob Jett, Pat Jones, Liz Karp, Dave Klauber, Kathy Klecan, Peter Kniffen, Sue Krause, Robert J. Kurtz, Mary Laura Lamont, Joe Landesberg, Anthony J. Lauro, Eve Levine, Patricia J. Lindsay, Bob May, Michael McBrien, Robert McGrath, Hugh McGuinness, S. S. Mitra, Charlie Morici, Mary Normandia, Joseph O'Sullivan, Robert O. Paxton, Larry Penny, Tony Poldino, Joan Quinlan, Peter Reisfield, Sy Schiff, John Sep, John Shemilt, Jason Silverman, Lloyd Spitalnik, Carl Starace, Richard Veit, Scott Whittle, Angus Wilson, Seth Ian Wollney, Brian Zitani.

ABBREVIATIONS

CCP – Cupsogue Co P, SUFF; CP – Central P, NEWY; DOP – Dreier-Offerman P, KING; GKP – Great Kills P, RICH; Grumman – former Grumman property, Calverton, SUFF; HHSP – Hither Hills SP, SUFF; Jam Bay – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, QUEE; JBSP – Jones Beach SP, NASS; MB – Mecox Bay, SUFF; MI – Moriches Inlet, SUFF; MLUA – Mt Loretto Unique Area, RICH; MP – Montauk Pt, SUFF; OMNSA – Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area, NASS; PB – Pikes Beach, SUFF; RMSP – Robert Moses SP, SUFF; RSF – Riverhead sod fields, SUFF; sb – southbound; Shinn – Shinnecock Inlet, SUFF; SY – second year; TY – third year.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Brant: a few summered along LI south shore, as usual.

Mute Swan: 342 ads & 21 y Jam Bay 16 Jul (RJK).

Wood Duck: flocks early Jul, e.g., 14 Ridgewood Res 9 Jul.

Gadwall: away from Jam Bay, reported in Jun from DOP, Forge R.

Am. Wigeon: a few summered Jam Bay.

Blue-winged Teal: Cedar Beach, SUFF 15 Jun & Jam Bay 9 Jul, only reports before mid Aug.

N. Shoveler: a few summered Jam Bay.

Green-winged Teal: away from Jam Bay, reported in Jun from Forge R.

Greater Scaup: reported from Jam Bay & Forge R.

Lesser Scaup: m Jam Bay 19 Jul.

Com. Eider: summering birds reported Montauk, Plum I, Great Gull I; breeding well established S Dumpling I.

White-winged Scoter: summering birds inc m MP 15 Jun.

Black Scoter: CCP 1 Jun; GKP 4 Jul; Jam Bay 15 Jul.

Long-tailed Duck: Plum I 19 Jun.

Bufflehead: m GKP thru.

Hooded Merganser: molting m Little Reed Pd, Montauk 15 Jun.

Red-breasted Merganser: a few summered along coast, e.g., at DOP, Shinn.

Ruddy Duck: away from Jam Bay, reported in Jun from Forge R.

N. Bobwhite: Better numbers and more sites on North Fork than in recent years (JSe); a few in traditional sites in central SUFF; also birds of suspect origins, e.g., MLUA early Jun & Fort Tilden thru.

Red-throated Loon: Marine P, KING 1 Jun, injured; CCP 1 Jun and later.

Pied-billed Grebe: 2 Ridgewood Res 9 Jul (RJ).

Cory's Shearwater: many inshore reports, some of large numbers, e.g., 55 HHSP 24 Jun (DG); 120 CCP 5 Jul (TB *et al.*).

Greater Shearwater: many inshore reports of small numbers; max 10 CCP 5 Jul (TB *et al.*).

Sooty Shearwater: many inshore reports of 1-5 inds, RMSP to Montauk.

Manx Shearwater: many inshore reports of 1-4 inds RMSP to Montauk.

AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER: offshore 2 Aug (JSh! ph); 2 Hudson Canyon 24 Aug (PGu *et al.*); 2 offshore 30 Aug (JSh! ph).

Wilson's Storm-Petrel: hard to find inshore, with no large counts, e.g., 11 RMSP 5 Jun (PJL); 12 CCP 5 Jul (TB *et al.*).

N. Gannet: land-based reports of 10-40 per day from many sites Jun-Jul; Aug reports widespread but >10 per day.

Brown Pelican: 3 Shinn 19 Jul (TP), flying east, only report.

Am. Bittern: Davis Creek, Southampton, SUFF 30 Jun (WB), only report.

Little Blue Heron: many reports of 1-2 birds Staten I-Shinn; max 6 GKP 31 Jul (SWo).

Tricolored Heron: not reported away from Jam Bay!

Cattle Egret: Jam Bay 24 Jul (RB), only report.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: well reported, with counts >10 breeders from several sites on both north and south shores of LI.

Glossy Ibis: Stony Brook, SUFF 1 Jul (SK), unus loc.

WHITE-FACED IBIS: Jam Bay 16 Aug (DG! ph, *et al.*) thru 19 Aug (DG, SB, *et al.*).

BLACK VULTURE (R10): 2 Calverton 28 Aug (AB), only report.

Turkey Vulture: nest with young Montauk (CM, fide LP), first LI nesting record.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

MISSISSIPPI KITE: CP 12 Jun (BC); William Floyd Estate 3 Aug (CS).

Bald Eagle: juv Sunken Meadow SP 9 Jul (JS); ad Staten I 17 Aug; ad CP 27 Aug, migr; imm Grumman 31 Aug; 3 CP 31 Aug (TF), migr.

N. Harrier: f CCP 1 Jun; ad m Cedar Beach & f Captree I 4 Jun.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: Northville, SUFF 19 Jun (MLL); juv Greenwood Cemetery 2 Jul (RJ); because breeding has very rarely been proven in Region, complete details are desired for reports like these.

Cooper's Hawk: widely reported throughout Region, thru.

Red-shouldered Hawk: S Marion, SUFF 4 Jun (SSM).

Broad-winged Hawk: ad s Staten I (HF); j Ridgewood Res 20, migr; Jam Bay 23 Aug.

Am. Kestrel: many nests NYC (fide R. DeCandido); 1-2 pairs Calverton, SUFF area; otherwise absent from most of Region this summer.

Merlin: arr JBSP 26 Aug.

Peregrine Falcon: many reports NYC east to Fire I Inlet thru.

Clapper Rail: many reports from trad sites: Jam Bay, OMNSA, CCP, Dune Rd.

Virginia Rail: nested Arshomomaque Pres, Greenport, SUFF.

Com. Moorhen: Jam Bay 9 Jul.

Am. Coot: 2 Aquebogue, SUFF thru (AB), only report.

SANDHILL CRANE (R10): Oyster Bay 27 Aug (MMcB); details desired for all reports of this Regionally very rare species.

Black-bellied Plover: summer max 40 CCP 27 Jun.

Am. Golden-Plover: ad arr Jam Bay 15 Aug (SB, DG).

Semipalmated Plover: summer max 6 MI 19 Jun.

BLACK-NECKED STILT: Jam Bay 27 Jun (JO'S) to 28 Jun (mob! ph).

Am. Avocet: CCP 8 Jun (AB).

Greater Yellowlegs: very few mid-season reports, e.g., 4 CCP 15 Jun; arr CCP 28 Jun; max 50 Jam Bay 23 Jul.

Lesser Yellowlegs: very few mid-season reports, e.g., CCP 15 Jun; arr CCP 28 Jun; first big sb flight 25 MI 5 Jul; max 250 Jam Bay 23 Jul.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr CP 11 Jul.

Willet (*inornatus*): alt ad CCP 23 & 27 Jun; most of the few Jun records to date have been 1S in basic aspect.

Spotted Sandpiper: sb migr arr early Jul; no reports of breeders; information of current breeding sites desired.

Upland Sandpiper: no reports.

Whimbrel: 2 arr JBSP 24 Jul, followed by many reports of 1-4 birds from many sites along ocean coast and North Fork.

Hudsonian Godwit: no reports.

Marbled Godwit: arr MI 3 Aug (P JL, SSM); 3 MI 23 Aug (CS); 6 MI 24 Aug (P JL *et al.*); and 9 MI by season's end; Jam Bay 9 Aug (mob); Plum Beach, KING 14 Aug (DG).

Ruddy Turnstone: mid-season max 23 MI 19 Jun.

Red Knot: mid-season max 50 PB 10 Jun & 33 MI 23 Jun.

Sanderling: mid-season max 75 PB 10 Jun & 50 PB 19 Jun.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: mid-season max 100 PB 10 Jun; 86 PB 23 Jun.

Western Sandpiper: 1S CCP 19 Jun (SSM), rare before mid Jul.

RED-NECKED STINT: alt Jam Bay 1 Aug (DG *et al.*, mob!).

Least Sandpiper: no more than scattered singles mid-season; first big sb flight 61 MI 5 Jul; sb max 500 Jam Bay 23 Jul.

White-rumped Sandpiper: mid-season max 23 MI; 18 alt PB & 5 alt CCP 19 Jun (P JL, SSM), present simultaneously; 16 still present PB 23 Jun.

Baird's Sandpiper: arr Jam Bay 27 Aug.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Jam Bay 4 Jul (TF).

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER: alt Jam Bay 3 Aug (P Jeffrey *et al.*, mob!).

Dunlin: mid-season max 7 (6 alt, 1 bas) CCP 19 Jun (SSM).

Stilt Sandpiper: arr Aquebogue 6 Jul.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 2 arr RSF 29 Aug (DK).

Short-billed Dowitcher: mid-season max 275 CCP 12 Jun; 210 CCP 19 Jun, incl 2 alt *hendersoni* (SSM, ph); first big sb flight 500 CCP 5 Jul, incl 6 *hendersoni*; sb max 1,500 Jam Bay 23 Jul (TF).

Long-billed Dowitcher: alt ad CCP 21, 27 Jun (TB, SSM ph, *et al.*), rare before mid Jul.

Wilson's Snipe: arr OMNSA 9 Aug (LK), early.

Wilson's Phalarope: CCP 25 Jun (KF); 2 ad Jam Bay 23 Jul; juv Jam Bay 30 Jul; 1-2 birds reported Jam Bay thru Aug.

Red-necked Phalarope: arr juv Jam Bay 12 Aug (LS).

Little Gull: ad Georgica Pd 3 Aug.

Bonaparte's Gull: Jam Bay 30 Jul, unus date.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1S CCP 28 Jun (SSM); 1S JBSP 26 Aug (BF, ph); only reports.

Gull-billed Tern: well reported from two trad nesting areas Jam Bay: up to 3 ads 19 & 27 Jun, 3 & 9 Jul, and 3, 9, & 19 Aug; ad & 2 juvs 15 Aug. Jones Inlet: ad OMNSA 6 Jul; ad JBSP 13 Aug; no reports from Fire I Inlet this year, but one from e LI: Shinn 15 (P JL, SSM).

Caspian Tern: 6 Jam Bay 21 Jun, many for date.

Royal Tern: arr PB 3 Jun (P JL, SSM); CCP 7 Jun (P JL); 42 PB 10 Aug; 112 MI 24 Aug.

SANDWICH TERN: 2 (alt & bas) CCP 8 Jun (AB, P JL, SSM ph); SY CCP 12 Jun (SSM ph, *et al.*); 2 alt pr CCP 29 Jun (SSM ph).

Roseate Tern: 1 pr Goose Flat, Gilgo (BZ, fide ROP); up to 5 CCP thru (SSM); 1 pr Shinnecock Bay (SSM), FY 6 Jul; ca. 20 prs Cartwright I (fide ROP); 1359 prs Great Gull I (HH).

Com. Tern: 2 SY & 4 TY CCP 1 Jun, first of these age-plumage classes this year; 5 SY & 6 TY CCP 8 Jun, max for SY this year.

ARCTIC TERN: 9 demonstrably distinct individuals: ad/TY CCP 8 Jun (P JL, SSM!, AB); SY CCP 14 Jun (SSM! *et al.*); SY & TY CCP 21 Jun (SSM! *et al.*); SY CCP 27 Jun (SSM! *et al.*); ad CCP 11 Jul (P JL, SSM!); TY PB 12 Jul (SA!, DK, BM); SY PB 13 Jul (P JL, SSM!, *et al.*); SY PB 20 Jul (P JL, SSM!, MN). **Forster's Tern**: SY CCP 1 Jun; 3 (alt pr & SY) CCP 8 Jun.

BRIDLED TERN: Block Canyon 26 Jul (JSh).

Black Tern: 3 alt CCP 3 Jun (P JL, SSM); 2 alt & 1 SY CCP 7 Jun (P JL); alt & SY CCP 8 Jun (SSM *et al.*); 3 juvs MI 24 Aug, first juvs of season; southbound max 118 Napeague-Mtk 30 Aug (AnW).

SOUTH POLAR SKUA: Block Canyon 17 Jul (JSh!, ph); Block Canyon 7 Aug (JSh!, ph).

Pomarine Jaeger: Lawrence, NASS 1 Jun (PK ph).

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: juv Hudson Canyon 24 Aug (PGu *et al.*, ph).

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Monk Parakeet: 12 Marine P, KING 1 Jun.

Com. Nighthawk: CP 1 Jun (BC, EL).

Red-headed Woodpecker: nested Calverton (R. McGrath, mob); at least one fledged; juv 30 Jul (KK, ph).

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: RMSP 18 Jun (JQ), unus date & loc.

Great Crested Flycatcher: RMSP 18 Jun (JQ), unus date & loc.
Warbling Vireo: s Marine P, KING 1 Jun (EL, BC), unus date-loc combination.
Purple Martin: 3 f 3 mi s Fire I Light, SUFF 27 Jun (RJK); none this year at trad colony Lemon Creek P, RICH.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: arr 27 Jun Grymes Hill, RICH (HF).
Brown Creeper: feeding young Maple Swamp, SUFF 7 Jun (AB *et al.*).

WARBLERS

"Lawrence's" Warbler: Clove Lakes P, RICH 22 Aug (CB).
Worm-eating Warbler: ad molting flight feathers b FT 1 Jul, a very unus date coastally; recaptured there 5 Aug in fresh basic plumage (JG, SSM).
Louisiana Waterthrush: no reports of breeders; arr CP 21 Jul (TF).
Kentucky Warbler: m terr Bethpage SP 6-13 Jul (JGr, JL, *et al.*).
Mourning Warbler: f OP 4 Jun (SSM).
Hooded Warbler: m s Muttontown Pres 7 Jun (Peter Reisfeld), only report prior to mid Aug arr.
Yellow-breasted Chat: m s Jam Bay 5 Jun; migr widely reported 18 Aug thru.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Summer Tanager: no reports.
Vesper Sparrow: no reports; does this species still breed in the Calverton Grasslands and around Gabreski Airport?
Lark Sparrow: arr JBSP 22 Aug (P Jones, mob).

Savannah Sparrow: a few scattered reports of breeders.
Grasshopper Sparrow: breeders Grumman & other Calverton, Napeague; only reports.
Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow: in addition to south coastal marshes, reported from Downs Creek, Cutchogue, SUFF 2 Jun (PGI).
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: CCP 8 Jun.
Swamp Sparrow: breeders Arshomomaque Pres, SUFF, only site reported; does this species still breed in the upper Peconic R?
White-throated Sparrow: sev summered CP (TF); s Gramercy P 3 Jul.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: f nest-building Willowbrook P, SI 2 Jun (PJL), rarely breeds on SI.
Blue Grosbeak: m Calverton 1 Jun, terr.
Bobolink: no breeders reported; arr FT 15 Jul.
E. Meadowlark: Grumman thru, only breeding site reported.
Orchard Oriole: increasingly common and widespread breeder.
Baltimore Oriole: migr CP 26 Jul.
Purple Finch: arr CP 27 Aug.
Red Crossbill: Flanders thru 5 Jun.

EXOTICS

Black Swan: Jam Bay 28 Aug (SWh).
Orange Bishop: Marine P, KING 6-7 Aug (mob).

ADDENDUM

Laughing Gull: four nested South Oyster Bay, NASS during summer 2007 (fide ROP), long-anticipated first nesting east of Jam Bay.

STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

Regional rarities appear in **BOLD**; county names are shortened to their first four letters and appear in **UPPER CASE** letters; months are shortened to their first three letters. In species accounts: number of individuals omitted implies that one individual was reported; ! - details seen by Regional Editor; ad - adult; Alt - Alternate plumage; Am. - American; arr - arrival or first of season; BBS - Breeding Bird Survey; BOTS - bird of the season; CBC - Christmas Bird Count; CO - confirmed nesting; Com. - Common; E. - Eastern; FL - fledgling; FY - adult feeding young; I - Island; imm - immature; intro - see introduction to report; juv - juvenile; L - Lake; max - maximum; mob - multiple observers; N. - Northern; NYSDEC - New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; NWR - National Wildlife Refuge; NYSARC - report to New York State Avian Records Committee; P - park; Pd - Pond; ph - photographed; Pt - Point; Res - Reservoir; Ri - River; SP - State Park; spm - specimen; subad - subadult; T - Town of; thru - throughout period; Twn - township; W. - Western; WMA - Wildlife Management Area; y - young.

REPORTING REGIONS

Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, except at:

Region 1-Region 2 in Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming Counties:

the boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia;
NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19
from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.

Region 2-Region 3 in Ontario County:

the boundary is Mud Creek to NY Route 64, NY Route 64
from Bristol Center to S. Bristol Springs, and Route 21
from S. Bristol Springs to the Yates County line.

Region 3-Region 5 in Cayuga County:

the boundary is NY Route 31.

REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February

Deadline is 7 March

Spring Season: March, April, May

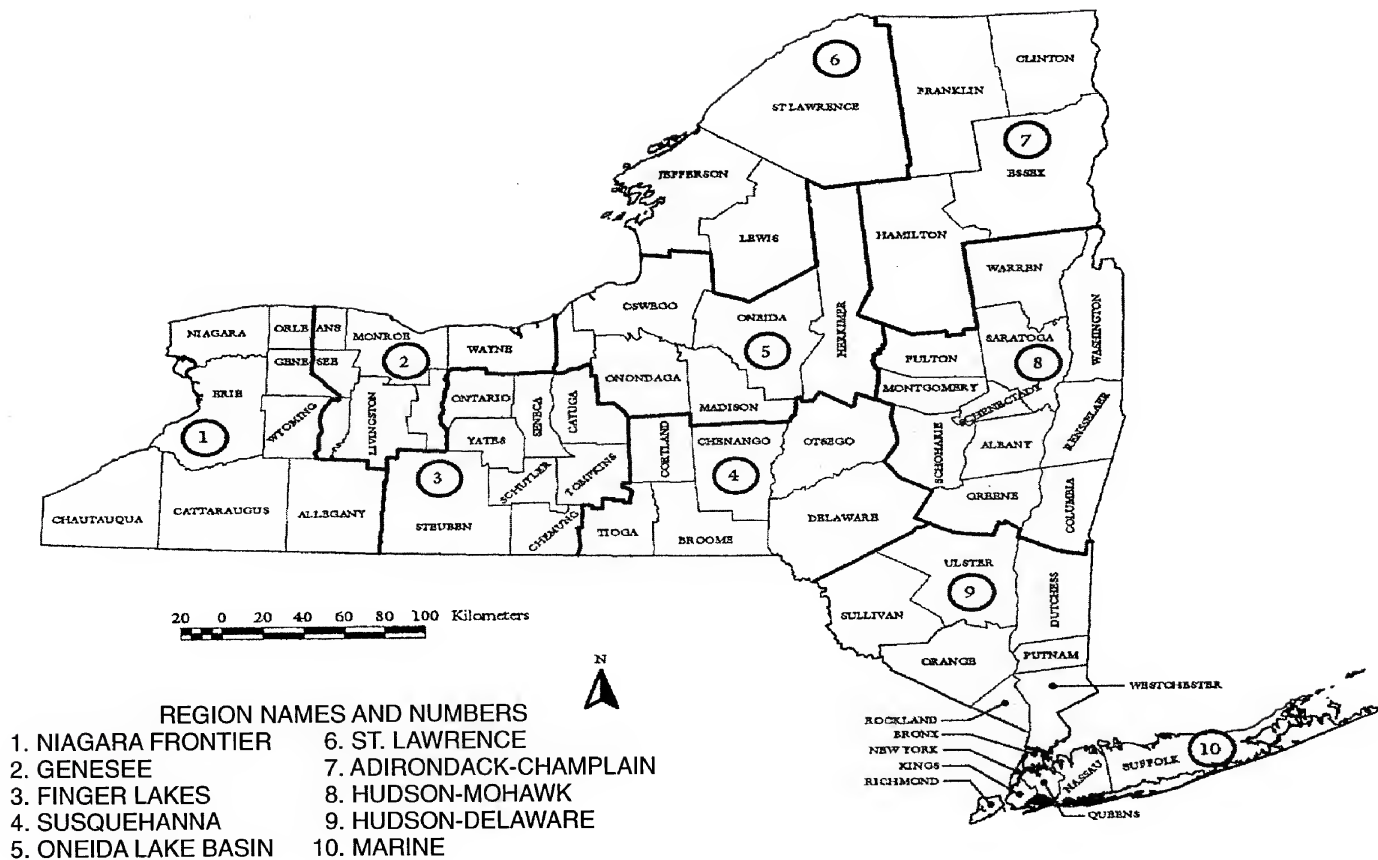
Deadline is 7 June

Summer Season: June, July, August

Deadline is 7 September

Fall Season: September, October, November

Deadline is 7 December



Editor of *The Kingbird*

Shaibal S. Mitra
Biology Dept., College of Staten Island
2800 Victory Blvd., Staten Island, NY 10314

Editor of *New York Birders*

Tim Baird
242 E. State St., Salamanca, NY 14779

Appointed Committees

Archives:

Phyllis R. Jones, Chair—9 Hallock Road, Pond Eddy, NY 12770

Awards:

Andrew Mason, 1039 Peck St., Jefferson, NY 12093

Conservation:

Gail Kirch—1099 Powderhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850

John Confer—651 Hammond Hill Rd., Brooktondale, NY 14817

Finance:

Berna B. Lincoln, Chair—P.O. Box 296, Somers, NY 10589

John J. Elliott Memorial:

Shaibal S. Mitra—Biology Dept., College of Staten Island
2800 Victory Blvd., Staten Island, NY 10314

New York State Avian Records:

Angus Wilson, Chair

Send reports to:

Jeanne Skelly, Secretary for NYSARC
420 Chili-Scottsville Rd., Churchville, NY 14428

Publications:

Emanuel Levine, Chair—585 Mead Terrace, S. Hempstead, NY 11550

Waterfowl Count:

Bryan L. Swift

NYSDEC Bureau of Wildlife, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4754

Web Site:

Carena Pooth—22 Brothers Rd., Poughquag, NY 12570

Elected Committees

Nominating:

Bill Cook, Tom Sarro, Kathryn Schneider (Chair)

Auditing:

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The Kingbird

Publication of NYS Ornithological Assoc., Inc.

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Jeanne Skelly

420 Chili Scottsville Rd

Churchville NY 14428-9623